Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-93-024 *8 February 1993*

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Cuba

Fidel Castro Meets With 'Education 93' Delegates

FL0502155993 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1502 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Excerpt] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, the first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, expressed interest in the educational methods presented at the meeting for the unity of Latin American teachers.

Accompanied by Cuban Education Minister Luis Ignacio Gomez Gutierrez, our top leader spoke with some delegates attending the Education 93 international conference, which is holding sessions at the Convention Center. [passage omitted]

Gives Speech at Closing Ceremony

FL0602031593 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Excerpt] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers, just a short while ago presided over the closing ceremony of the Education 93 conference. The event took place at the Karl Marx Theater. In his speech, Fidel highlighted the efforts Cuba is making to (?maintain services in) education and health in the midst of special period conditions.

[Begin Castro recording] How is it possible, considering the terrible blow that the economy of our country has suffered, that not a single school has been shut down? [applause] That not a single child has been left without a teacher, and that there are teachers on sabbatical? [applause] And that there are thousands of teachers outdoing themselves? Because we have the personnel on hand, and these people still have to dress, shoe, and feed themselves; breathe; consume a bit of the energy of the sun that reaches all of us every day. This is possible only because of the sensibleness of our society.

How is it possible that, under such conditions, not a single hospital has been shut down, not a single patient has been left without medical assistance? How is it possible that not a single physician has been left without a job? How is it possible that every teacher that graduates is assured of a job? [applause] [end recording]

In his speech, Fidel talked about the first tasks that the Revolution confronted in education, at the beginning of the Revolution, and about the efforts that have been made over the years to reach the levels where we are today.

[Begin Castro recording] Of course, what we did was enough to put us in first place among all the countries of the Third World, and even above a number of developed countries. [applause] So great was the effort made under those conditions that we today have, for example, more teachers, or more teaching personnel, per capita than any other country in the world. [applause] [Words indistinct] the developed countries [words indistinct] number of students per head of teaching personnel is 10. [applause] [end recording] [passage omitted]

More on Speech

FL0602032493 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Excerpt] Let's go back to the closing ceremony of Education 93, at which Commander in Chief Fidel Castro made the closing speech.

[Begin Castro recording] For that reason, let me express to you our deepest gratitude for having kept Cuba in mind, for having remembered Cuba, for having had confidence in Cuba, for having come here to Cuba. [applause] Consider that an institution, a movement has already been created, with these meetings of teachers. And if at first, it was thought to hold them every four years; and later it was decided to hold the event every three years, I agree with [words indistinct] proposal [words indistinct] [applause].

And if we do not fit into this theater, we will think of something! Either [words indistinct] or we will (?divide up and meet) in many different places, and we will hold our encounter. Thus, allow me to take leave of you with those unforgettable words of Che [Guevara], and thinking that we will be seeing you again soon: Onward toward victory always. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Haiti

Explosions in Capital; NAI Issues Communique

FL0502144493 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] Last night, two strong explosions were heard within minutes of each other in Petionville, a residential suburb of Port- au-Prince. This is what the people living in the Petionville area noted. According to preliminary reports, there were no casualties or property damage from these explosions which occurred at about 2220. They were apparently the result of homemade devices which were activated by unknown persons. No one has claimed responsibility.

However, a communique [issued by] a mysterious organization called the New Indigenous Army [Nouvelle Armee Indigene, NAI], which reached AFP, warned that—for authentication in the next few hours and days—the indigenous guns would announce the commencement of Operation Archangel's Anger [Operasyon Kole Akanj]. According to what the text added, this operation will not disarm until it has finished with the Haitian Armed Forces or the enemy forces. This communique, which is the second one, explained that a state of war in compliance with the people's rights exists from now on between the NAI and the civilian and military coalition which is corrupt and impervious to change.

The NAI issued its first communique as a warning on 15 January after a series of similar explosions took place. Similar explosions were heard over the past month in the Petionville neighborhood where Prime Minister Marc Louis Bazin resides.

At least three people have died in Port-au-Prince since last November due to homemade bombs exploding while they were carrying them. Bombs seriously injured several other people who were in the immediate vicinity of the people carrying these bombs. Police attribute these explosions to a number of networks working for President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

Caputo Departs; Talks Said To End 'In Failure'

FL0502150393 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1400 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] The mission of the OAS/UN mediator, Dante Caputo, ended in failure on 4 February. According to the AFP, Mr. Caputo left Port-au-Prince on 4 February for New York where he will give a report on the results of his mission to Butrus Butrus Ghali, the UN secretary general.

Mr. Caputo's mission took place in a very discreet manner. It was not possible to reach an agreement on the sending of an international civilian mission to monitor the respect of human rights. Prime Minister Marc Bazin—we remember that—rejected the conditions proposed by the OAS and the United Nations relating to the deployment of this mission, deeming them contrary to national sovereignty. A counterproposal was submitted to the international mediator.

Government Awaits Reaction to Caputo Report

FL0502232293 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in French 1800 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] Great political uncertainty prevailed this morning after the 4 February failure of the mission of the UN/OAS mediator, Dante Caputo. The government of Prime Minister Marc Bazin issued publicly this morning a brief communique announcing that even if a certain closeness in the positions was reached on several points, there were still some points of disagreement between the special envoy and the Haitian party. Mr. Caputo left Port-au-Prince, taking with him the latest Haitian proposals to discuss with those who gave him a mandate in New York and in Washington. The government is therefore now waiting for the reactions of the UN and OAS Secretaries General, continues the communique.

Mr. Caputo left Haiti yesterday without reaching an agreement on the sending of an international civilian mission to the country, in order to monitor the respect of human rights, the first step of a global negotiated solution to the crisis allowing a progressive lifting of the OAS embargo.

Prime Minister Marc Bazin had rejected, in the name of national sovereignty, the OAS and UN conditions for sending this mission and had presented a counterproposal. Diplomatic observers think everything will depend on the way Mr. Caputo, from Argentina, who was due to report his mission today to UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, publicly presents the results.

Nerette Interviewed on Return From Washington

FL0602002693 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] At the International Airport on 4 February, the return to Port-au-Prince of former Provisional President Justice Joseph Nerette was welcomed by a group of partisans who were angry and attacked some journalists. Those partisans claimed Nerette as president of the country. On the microphone of Rothchild Francois Junior, Justice Joseph Nerette presented a positive assessment of his stay abroad. However, he did not want to comment on his new status on his return to Port-au-Prince. Rothchild Francois Junior filed the following report:

[Begin recording] [Francois] Joseph Nerette has returned after a stay in the United States of America. The country's former provisional president was welcomed at the airport on 4 February by some former members of his government and by political leaders, including Hubert de Ronceray of the Mobilization for National Development [MDN]. In a statement on a Port-au-Prince radio station, Mr. Nerette let it be understood on 4 February that he considered himself the country's provisional president. Joseph Nerette officially resigned from his functions as president, following the Villa D'Accueil agreement. Mr. Nerette, questioned by Radio Metropole, was very laconic in his answers. He claims to have been received in a princely fashion in the United States of America.

[Nerette] I would simply tell you that the stay was excellent. We were received in a princely fashion, we made contacts, and we are making efforts to obtain the lifting of the embargo and the opening of Haiti's file to reconsideration by the international authorities.

[Francois] What personalities did you meet?

[Nerette] I am not obliged to reveal to you the names of the personalities because I do not intend to get them involved. I know our enemies. However, we also have friends.

[Francois] You made a statement yesterday that you were still Haiti's president, is that true?

[Nerette] We are really sorry.

[Francois] It should be recalled that members of the Clinton team refused contact with former Haitian President Nerette in the United States. The OAS secretary general did not want to talk with Mr. Nerette in the organization's building in Washington.

Hubert de Ronceray from MDN, who was at the Port-au-Prince airport to greet Mr. Nerette, explains his approach.

[De Ronceray] I think President Nerette is coming back from a very important trip where he made contacts at the highest level. He defended the cause of the Haitian society, the cause of the entire Haitian people. I then consider that it is a patriotic duty to greet him with warmth; that is what we have done today.

[Francois] He said that he was still the country's provisional and constitutional president. Do you share this viewpoint, Mr. de Ronceray, since Mr. Nerette had clearly resigned recently?

[De Ronceray] I think Mr. Nerette is old enough to know what he is saying. If he says he is still head of state, one believes he has good reason for saying so.

[Francois] It should be noted that a small group of demonstrators was at the airport to welcome the former president. Some of the demonstrators threatened to attack us physically. Lewd words were addressed to us by those pro-Nerette demonstrators who were claiming that the press is responsible for the situation that the country is facing. The military authority at the airport, Major Valme, intervened to remind one of the demonstrators that people's integrity must be respected.

Since the beginning of the week, a wind of intolerance has been seriously shaking journalists. They feel verbally or physically attacked by extremists, a scandalous situation that people of goodwill should denounce.

We note that a Tropic FM reporter has been missing since 1 February. Colson Dorme had gone to the airport to cover a demonstration against Caputo. Journalists in the capital are petitioning for the release of Colson Dorme from the hands of his possible kidnappers. [end recording]

Pro-Aristide Demonstration in Cap-Haitien 4 Feb

FL0502174993 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] Cap-Haitien was in an uproar on 4 February. Students in public and private high schools in the city decided to demonstrate in favor of the return of ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. According to correspondent Jocelyn Jean, the military intervened at the Philippe Guerrier Public High School and dispersed this demonstration attempt, which caused a panic in the entire city.

[Begin Jean recording] The police in Cap-Haitien dispersed a demonstration attempt which the students of the public high school began staging in front of the Philippe Guerrier Public High School on the morning of 4 February to unconditionally demand the return of Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide. The students shouted: Down with Prime Minister Marc Bazin; Up with Father Aristide's return. At the same time, students at the Notre Dame Private High School in Cap-Haitien were in an uproar, and they distributed leaflets with Father Aristide's pictures. We point out that the call for creating a disturbance was announced in leaflets which were circulating in the afternoon of 3 February at the Notre Dame Private High School and the Philippe Guerrier Public High School in Cap-Haitien.

The police (?quickly reacted by patrolling) the entire city and by beating several people in the areas of Lafossette and Rue 15-L. The police have, however, denied this information. This turmoil caused a panic which forced parents to go and look for their children at the schools. But between 1100 and 1200, several schools in Cap-Haitien sent students home. Consequently, schools did not have classes in the afternoon. Mayor Allen Simon met for a time with the assistant police chief in Cap-Haitien, [word indistinct] Jose Pascal who said he did not know anything about arrests or beatings in the city. If that happened, it would be very unfortunate [he said]. Finally, we learned that a man named (Dezeb) was arrested in Rue 21-C by Captain Calixte [chief of police] under the pretext that (Dezeb) is accustomed to holding meetings in his home. [end recording]

Cuban Officer Said To Defect; En Route to Florida

PA0702231693 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2227 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Text] Mexico City, 7 Feb (EFE)—Cuban Air Force Major Pedro Delgado Lozano, who was in Mexico as a tourist, has defected and traveled to Florida, the Cuban National Liberation Front [FCLN], which opposes the Castro government, reported on 7 February.

Delgado, a member of the Air Force security service, arrived in Mexico on 20 January on a private visit and "will show up in Miami in a few hours," according to Modesto Vasquez Gonzalez, FCLN coordinator general in Mexico City.

No Cuban Embassy official was available to confirm the report. Vasquez declined to say whether Maj. Delgado was still on Mexican soil. According to Vasquez, Delgado defected to protest limitations imposed on Cuban Air Force members, many of whom have been discharged and now work as taxi drivers and construction workers. Vasquez added that Delgado had been decorated by Cuban leader Fidel Castro with the "Hero of Giron" medal.

The FCLN has never revealed how many members it has in Mexico City but some of them are businessmen in the publishing and movie industries.

Duties To Be Imposed on U.S Steel Firms

PA0502201593 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] Foreign Trade Undersecretary Pedro Moyola announced that as of 8 February, Mexico will impose countervailing duties on six U.S. steel companies. This is a result of alleged unfair practices against Mexican steel companies. During a news conference, Noyola said the preliminary resolution will be published in the federation's official newspaper on 8 February. The measure imposes duties of 5 to 29 percent on the cited companies. This is the result of an investigation that began seven months ago. The undersecretary explained that this is not a reprisal by the Mexican Government for the sanctions imposed by the United States on three Mexican companies.

[Begin Noyola recording] The Mexican industry's case has the following characteristics: 1) The plaintiffs are Altos Hornos de Mexico and (?Opalata) y Lamina; 2) The U.S. companies that have been accused are: Bethlehem Steel Company, [name indistinct], National Steel Corporation, [name indistinct] and [name indistinct]. [end recording]

Noyola said U.S. exports could be affected, if the resolution is adopted in April, by a total of $116 million. There are now 11 U.S. companies affected by countervailing duties. Five more cases are being studied.

Noyola said the Mexican Government will continue supporting the exports of Mexican steel companies sanctioned by the United States. Pedro Noyola explained that if a decision is taken against (names indistinct] and Industrias de Monterey, Mexico could resort to using the GATT consulting mechanisms. The undersecretary said a total of $80 million in Mexican steel exports could be affected.

PRD President Accepts Presidential Candidacy

PA0602170493 Mexico City XHTV Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Text] Cuauhtemoc Cardenas, national leader of the Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD), accepted his nomination as PRD presidential candidate for the 1994 elections. Rodolfo Gonzalez Guevarra, a PRD member, hosted a citizens' breakfast meeting in which Cuauhtemoc Cardenas was proposed as presidential candidate for the 1994-2000 administration. In response, Cuauhtemoc Cardenas said the following:

[Begin Cardenas recording] I accept the enormous responsibility that this candidacy represents. [end recording]

During his speech, Cardenas said that in the coming days he will resign as PRD president. More than 1,000 persons, mainly PRD members, attended the breakfast held in a restaurant in Mexico City. Among the attendees were PRD members, such as Porfirio Munoz, Pablo Gomez, Efigenio Martinez, and Graco Ramirez.

Costa Rica

Government Minister To Remain in Cabinet

PA0602034993 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Report by William Cespedes]

[Text] Government and Public Security Minister Luis Fishman confirmed that he will remain in President Rafael Angel Calderon's cabinet. Fishman is currently accompanying Calderon, who is visiting Limon Province on a two-day tour. Fishman said he will not seek to run as a candidate for the Legislative Assembly because there are many plans that are still pending in the Calderon administration, which he wants to complete.

According to Fishman, there will be a series of legal reforms that include the creation of an interior ministry as well as reforms to the penal code and improvement to the security of citizens. According to Fishman, these plans could be completed in the 15 months that remain in the Calderon administration.

The president has visited the housing project called Limon 2000, in which 328 of 3,000 housing units have already been built. He has also visited the Isaiah Marchena Housing Project, which is sponsored by the Limon Labor Union. The president also said he is pleased with the decision made by Fishman. The following are statements made by the government and security minister just a few minutes ago:

[Begin Fishman recording] I have accompanied the president on this tour, and I have told him I will remain in government, God willing, until 8 May 1994. I believe my job within the Government and Security Ministry has not been completed yet. We have specific plans and with the help of the president, the finance minister, and other institutions we will make reforms to the penal code. We plan to create a new police force in the metropolitan area. There will be new police stations headed by lawyers, by well-trained personnel, who will help protect citizens. This is a decision I made and I have the support of the president to remain in my post. I would like to complete the job I have been doing since 1990. I hope that with the help of God and all Costa Ricans I can remain in the Government and Security Ministry until 8 May 1994. [end recording]

President Calderon said the following after Fishman spoke:

[Begin Calderon recording] We have been talking this over for the past few weeks and I have been trying to convince him not to leave. I wanted him to stay. It is a great responsibility with the country. He has been with me for many years. He has been with me this long but we have yet to complete the job we began even though much has been achieved. Progress has been achieved, but we still have to do more. I told him he should not leave because the job was unfinished. In the remaining 15 months, we can provide the country with greater security and tranquillity for all Costa Ricans. Fishman will get his opportunity. He is a young man and in May 1994 he will have the opportunity to participate in politics and to occupy a series of posts, but it is important for him to remain in this post for the next 15 months. [end recording]

The president will be visiting a series of projects on 5 February, especially those that have been built for the Costa Rican National Games, which will be inaugurated on the afternoon of 6 February. The president will also inaugurate several projects in Limon Province on the morning of 6 February.

Government Minister on Weapons Trafficking

PA0602042193 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] The Government and Public Security Ministry could be receiving more details on weapons trafficking to Colombia.

A key informer at the Public Security Ministry could add details on weapons trafficking to Colombia as reported by Luis Fishman, government and public security minister, on 4 February.

Fishman linked the weapons confiscated on 4 February with two trucks loaded with weapons discovered in Nicaraguan territory on 3 February. The two trucks were trying to reach Costa Rican territory.

The official said one of the two vehicles was able to escape and was apparently carrying part of the shipment that was confiscated.

El Salvador

Cristiani Addresses Police Graduation

PA0602043793 San Salvador TVCE Television Network in Spanish 1630 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Speech by President Alfredo Cristiani at first graduation ceremony of the National Public Security Academy on 5 February; place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] Mr. President of the honorable Legislative Assembly and Messrs. Deputies; Most Excellent Mr. Interior Minister of Spain; Most Excellent Messrs. Ambassadors and Honorable Heads of Diplomatic Missions accredited in the country; Messrs. Cabinet Members; the Honorable Principal Political Adviser to the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State; Mr. Director of the National Public Security Academy and Messrs. of the Academic Council; Mr. Director of the National Civilian Police [PNC]; Honorable Messrs. Representatives of International Organizations; Honorable Messrs. Advisers and Professors of the Public Security Academy; Messrs. Special Guests; students; ladies and gentlemen:

We have the pleasure of attending the first graduation of the National Public Security Academy, an event of paramount

importance to national life. This constitutes another important step in improving the scope and efficiency of public security as required by the country's current situation and as is justly demanded by the citizens.

It is timely to recall that the constitutional amendment adopted in keeping with the peace agreements established the preservation of peace, tranquillity, order, and public security throughout national territory as the duty of the PNC, under the authority of the Presidency of the Republic.

We established the PNC in compliance with this constitutional mandate on the basis of a new doctrine, organization, and education and training mechanisms. The new police corps mission is to protect and guarantee the people's free exercise of rights and freedoms and to prevent and combat crime. It is a corps at the service of all Salvadorans.

As the backbone of the process to establish the new police institution, we created a legal framework and granted the institution an autonomous status and gave it the primary mission of offering professional training to basic, mid-level, and superior ranks of the PNC. We wish to stress that the absolute apolitical nature of the members in fulfilling their duties is among the main characteristics of this academy and consequently also of the PNC. This is why the academy authorities and teaching staff were selected carefully regardless of ideological persuasion or party affiliation to guarantee total neutrality at the institutional level and to ensure achievement of the primary goal; that is, to protect and serve all inhabitants of the country without distinction.

When we attended the ceremony to launch classes at the National Public Security Academy in September 1992 we said we were taking a firm step toward complying with agreements to consolidate peace and we were establishing the basis needed to fight crime through the application of modern police techniques and methodology while respecting legal norms and procedures and showing the strictest respect for human rights.

Early this week the government purchased a plot of land of about 53 manzanas for 10.625 million colons where the permanent home of the National Public Security Academy will be built. We are thus giving clear evidence of our commitment to create an excellent PNC to provide security for Salvadorans.

With the aid the international community has offered, we hope to implement the package of activities entailed in the development of the new police institution. Today we are taking another big step in complying with our constitutional mandate of protecting the lives and property of the people. The National Public Security Academy is graduating and presenting over 100 agents who will make up the first contingent of the PNC to serve Salvadoran society.

We no doubt are living in a new era in the life of the nation. Each day, the dynamics of the peace process leads us to changes and adaptations. We are part of a new national reality and of a generation deeply committed to turn our beloved El Salvador into a fatherland where we can all live under the guarantees of the rule of law and where all, the government and the governed, are subject to legal rules and abide by the law without discrimination, prerogatives, or privileges.

On behalf of the government and the Salvadoran people, we are pleased to express our gratitude to the governments of friendly countries that are giving us their technical and financial support to carry out the work plans of the academy as well as the PNC. We are especially thankful for the aid provided by the EC and, in particular, the governments of Spain, the United States, and Norway. We also wish to convey our gratitude to the authorities of the National Public Security Academy and the faculty for the commendable work they are doing in providing professional training to the PNC cadres.

We want to tell the graduating agents that in taking their solemn oath before our flag today they have undertaken the great and honorable commitment to serve Salvadoran society with loyalty and professional integrity. You, the members of the academy's first graduating class, shoulder the responsibility of doing honor to the lofty profession you have chosen to serve our fatherland. Society has its eyes on you, as it expects worthy conduct on par with the expectations of the people regarding the actions of the new police corps. We want to ask you, as representatives of public security, to do honor to the concepts and technical capacity of your academic training.

Behave in a professional manner at all times and under all circumstances, with absolute adherence to the law, respecting and enforcing the rights of all citizens. Always be honest and loyal in fulfilling your duties. Never forget that the institution to which you belong is totally apolitical and that you did not join it to defend ideologies or partisan interests but the common interest of Salvadoran society. Receive your warm congratulations for having climbed the first step as public security professionals. We know you will succeed in fulfilling your duties.

We ask the Salvadoran people to give their broadest support to the deployment of this new PNC contingent, as well as to the programs to fight crime. The new PNC falls within the framework of the most modern and universal concepts of public security. It had an exemplary design, and its functioning and development must be exemplary also. That is what all Salvadorans hope for and demand. May God bless you. Thank you. [applause]

FMLN Spokesman on New Party Structure, Compliance

PA0502162493 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] announced on 4 February the new structure that will henceforth govern the party. Juan Ramon Medrano, secretary for press and propaganda, said that

Jorge Shafik Handal and Eugenio Chicas Martinez will remain as general coordinator and assistant general coordinator, respectively. The number of members of the organization secretariat was increased given the complexity of the work to be done in preparation for the 1994 election. On the issue of party reconstruction, the election of party directors was well balanced, which meant a political change, he said. In commenting on the letter the UN secretary general sent the Security Council regarding noncompliance with the agreements on weapons destruction, the former rebel leader said the whole process has been plagued with noncompliance.

[Begin recording] [Medrano] I think the process has been plagued with noncompliance. It should therefore not surprise us that certain lands have not been delivered, that the Armed Forces purge list is still incomplete. We still do not know how they will react to the government's Truth Commission. I think it is only logical that there also be delays on the part of the FMLN, both voluntary and involuntary, given the government's so-called delays. I think it is logical.

[Unidentified reporter] What do you expect to gain by withholding the weapons from [words indistinct]?

[Medrano] We do not have a policy of withholding weapons as such, but we want the Nationalist Republican Alliance to comply with the main points on land and purging. We both have a commitment and a judge; specifically, the UN secretary general. Let us try and comply by moving together, which is what we have said since the beginning of the process.

[Reporter] [question indistinct]?

[Medrano] There is much to be said about negotiating under the table. You know that we began negotiating and in December, when no agreements were possible, the talks were broken off. There is no negotiating under the table. There is, however, a correlation of forces. Before it was by force or war, and now it is by other means, but we both need certain guarantees for there to be complementarity.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] the lands are available and now [words indistinct] but you now have this number of people on your inventories to receive lands. What is the problem [words indistinct]?

[Medrano] The problem is a lack of will to transfer the main lands. The problems are the coffee plantations, the salt mines, the benefits, and the more productive, fertile lands. The truth is that the FMLN and the social base, which [words indistinct] the FMLN, is occupying much more land that inventoried or allocated by the government. We have many more people than we need. The problem is actually the other way around. They have limited us far too much by allocating 5,000 [word indistinct], because there are 50 to 60 thousand people participating, according to our calculations. It is not a problem of lack of people but a lack of will. It is also bureaucracy and incapability on the government's part to solve the land transfer issue.

[Reporter] What are you going to do [words indistinct]?

[Medrano] I have said there are two basic problems: the issue of Army purging, which is currently being dealt with, and the land issue, which could become the most conflictive problem in the country. We the FMLN have set the goal to negotiate, agree, and solve the points of contention, but we cannot forget we have a social base that has waged war for 12 years. If those people do not get a solution for the real problems that began the war in the first place, they may respond in ways that are not exactly the right ones. That is not something we want, but it would come in response to provocation. Land is the most sensitive issue for our people. I call on the government, landowners, and people in general to join in quickly finding a solution to the land problem before we get ourselves into a situation such as Nicaragua, where the unsolved property issue has developed into chaos. We still have time to avert that situation. [end recording]

He also reported that the party would contact the UN secretary general to ask him not to grant the Truth Commission any more deadline extensions to present its final report. The commission postponed the original deadline, arguing that it did not have enough time to complete the task.

Defense Minister Comments on Reverted Buildings

PA0602214793 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1800 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Interview with Defense Minister General Rene Emilio Ponce by unidentified correspondent marking the Arce Battalion demobilization in San Miguel on 6 February—recorded]

[Text] [Ponce] We have not decided what to do with these installations yet. We have been talking with President Cristiani because these installations are owned by the Urban Housing Institute. At the time, we modified the buildings so they could be used by the Arce Battalion. We understand there are plans to use them for a regional government center.

[Correspondent] The people, particularly market vendors, are concerned over the report that the National Civilian Police would be transferred here when they start operating next year. What chance does the market vendors' request stand of being honored by the defense minister? Will they be allowed to use the buildings for their market?

[Ponce] I think the request is reasonable. When I was commander here, I realized the problem represented by the small marketplace and the need for a larger marketplace. Nevertheless, the government should make the decision because these buildings belong to it. We are sure it will find the best use for them.

[Correspondent] Changing the subject, General, how about the slander against you and other officers by

UNOC [National Union of Christian Workers] and other, nongovernmental organizations?

[Ponce] The case involves UNTS [Union of Salvadoran Workers] and the Nongovernmental Human Rights Commission. The legal proceedings have continued according to the law. The case is being handled by the 9th Criminal Court. We have reiterated our slander charges against these two organizations, whose accusations are groundless. I understand the people accused were ordered to appear before the authorities this week. [end recording]

ARENA Deputies on Suspension of U.S. Preferences

PA0502163893 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 4 Feb 92

[Report by Hilda Quijano]

[Text] The Nationalist Republican Alliance [ARENA] has requested the National Commission for the Consolidation of Peace [Copaz] to mediate in the boycott against Salvadoran exports to the United States. ARENA claims this action violates the peace accords.

ARENA deputies believe a suspension of U.S. customs preferences toward El Salvador would also represent a boycott to peace accord provisions that provide former fighters with the opportunity to participate in the country's economic activities. Hence, the deputies have asked Copaz to mediate in the conflict.

[Begin Deputy Julio Gamero recording] We want these people to become farmers and businessmen. We believe these new land owners should become farmers of nontraditional products. We think the National Peasant-Worker Unity's [UNOC] maneuver strives to obstruct and preclude the peace accords and benefits they represent for new land owners and families who want to participate in the country's social and economic life. [end recording]

Gamero said Copaz should discuss UNOC's request with the U.S. Congress and issue a statement so the request is not granted. This would isolate those who sponsor a boycott against national products exported to other countries.

ARENA deputies said UNOC's ultimate goal is to discredit the government without taking into consideration the damage this will inflict on the nation's economy

[Begin Gamero recording] That is their ultimate goal. They do not care about the political consequences, excuse me, they do not care about the economic consequences. They are only interested in the political consequences. Whoever requests a boycott on our exports to the United States or requests a suspension of U.S. aid should realize this will not hurt the government or a political party. [end recording]

ARENA deputies said that if the United States suspended its customs preferences toward El Salvador, Salvadoran exports would have to pay taxes and therefore, their competitiveness with other producer countries would drop.

Spanish Interior Minister Meets With Cristiani

PA0602182093 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Text] President Alfredo Cristiani and Spanish Interior Minister Jose Luis Corcuera on 5 February discussed the Salvadoran peace process. They also discussed Spanish cooperation with El Salvador, especially regarding the new National Civilian Police [PNC].

According to official sources, Cristiani and Corcuera talked privately for 90 minutes on the morning of 5 February. They then went to Flor Blanca Stadium to attend the graduation ceremony of the first PNC class. Spain has provided financial and technical support to the PNC.

In the afternoon, Corcuera met with Salvadoran Foreign Minister Manuel Pacas Castro, Presidency Minister Oscar Santamaria, Public Security Academy Director Mario Bolanos, and PNC Director Jose Maria Monterrey.

The Spanish minister also met with the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front Party.

Spain Sends Equipment to New Civilian Police

PA0602194893 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Text] President Alfredo Cristiani announced the arrival in the next few hours of a weapons and equipment shipment to be used by the new National Civilian Police officers who graduated on 5 February. The president explained that the Spanish Government had sent the equipment to help in the organization of that public security institution. The officers will be deployed during the last week of February in different parts of Chalatenango and Cabanas Departments, which have been labeled as trouble spots after the recently concluded armed conflict.

Guatemala

Serrano: Talks With Guerrillas Not To Resume

PA0502202893 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1858 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] Guatemala City, 5 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—Guatemalan President Jorge Serrano announced on 5 February that the peace dialogue with the guerrillas will not be renewed in view of the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity [URNG] refusal to return to the negotiating table on 15 February.

Serrano told the media that mediator Bishop Rodolfo Quezada Toruno has notified him, without further explanation, that "the URNG will not be able to attend the meeting scheduled for the third week of February."

Quezada had said on 29 January that the peace dialogue would be renewed in February in Mexico and that it would be "a meeting with special characteristics" at which no agreement would be signed but that would serve to search for "points of rapprochement" to reestablish the negotiations.

At the United Nations, Serrano proposed to the URNG the signing of a total agreement in 90 days or the signing of a definite cease-fire agreement supervised by the United Nations.

The guerrillas conditioned their approval of the government initiative to the reduction of 50 percent of the Army and the purge of military people involved in human rights violations.

As Serrano sees it, the negative response of the guerrilla "commanders" to renew the dialogue illustrates the "wavering will of the URNG to return to the negotiating table and secure peace."

Guatemala is the only country in Central America where an internal armed conflict persists. This conflict has lasted more than three decades, has taken the lives of more than 150,000 people, and has forced thousands to move from their places of birth, according to international organizations.

Serrano Comments on 'Delay Tactics'

PA0602012893 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 1800 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Report on news conference by President Jorge Serrano Elias with unidentified reporters in Guatemala City on 5 February]

[Text] The government and Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity, URNG, will not hold the meeting scheduled for 15 to 20 February. The URNG informed conciliator Monsignor Rodolfo Quezada Toruno it will not be able to attend the meeting. Msgr. Quezada then notified the government. President Jorge Serrano outlined his stance on the suspension of the talks during a news conference held on 5 February.

[Begin Serrano recording] We feel this decision shows the wavering commitment that exists within the URNG to return to the negotiating table and truly attain peace.

The government also regrets it has not yet received a clear response from the URNG, regarding the proposals it made at the United Nations, although the conciliator was duly informed of them. As the news media and local and international community know, the proposals demonstrate the government's flexibility, which is unprecedented in the history of the country's armed strife.

We hereby state before the local and international community that delay tactics are being used and unacceptable conditions are being presented to delay and avoid fundamental discussions that are mentioned in agreements and documents already signed and prepared by the two sides. The government reiterates—and would also like to hear the URNG state—its unrestricted support for the implementation of the Oslo, Mexico City, and Queretaro agreements, as well as the points already agreed on and signed on the human rights agreement. The government is also reiterating that it is ready to keep its commitments, without excuses of any kind. The government is prepared to begin immediately the discussion of points contained in the documents drafted by the government and the URNG, which define and outline the negotiations agenda. Moreover, the government believes this constitutes the only serious procedure to review the topics submitted. The government hereby urges the URNG to abide by the agreements it has signed and negotiated in a free and objective manner. If it does otherwise, the international community will realize that the URNG is using the negotiations and different forums as part of an outdated revolutionary struggle.

We have stated this on several occasions. We want to receive assurances from the URNG that they are negotiating in good faith and not—as a document we seized in November 1992 stated—using it as a strategy of its armed struggle. The government reiterates its firm determination and absolute conviction we could reach a firm and lasting peace agreement ending the domestic armed confrontation within 90 days.

We reiterate our desire to achieve peace for all Guatemalans. We urge the URNG to favor reconciliation, peace, and progress for our people. We are absolutely convinced 90 days is more than sufficient, because we have held talks for more than three years and the URNG has been able to meet with all Guatemalan sectors and learn their views.

They presented a document summarizing all their demands and the government has sent a reply already. Gentlemen of the media, we are determined to press on and our actions are consistent with this attitude. To reinforce this position today we sent to Conciliator Msgr. Rodolfo Quezada Toruno a letter protesting the URNG's refusal to attend talks scheduled on 15 February; we reaffirm our willingness to attend the negotiations and to discuss the proposals that were presented and to find ways to overcome the impasse in the peace negotiations. [end recording]

Serrano said that the Swedish Government supports the peace proposal presented by the Guatemalan president before the United Nations. He denied reports stating otherwise and other reports stating the Swedish regime would promote a condemnation of Guatemala before the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva, Switzerland.

[Begin Serrano recording] On 4 February, the Swedish Government, through its embassy in Guatemala, issued

a statement denying such reports completely. We received messages from the Swedish Government voicing unconditional support for the peace proposal I presented and clarifying that it never said such a thing. These statements issued by the Swedish Embassy show that the rumors of a Nordic government planning to promote a condemnation of the Guatemalan Government are completely false. [end recording]

URNG Rejects Serrano's 'Accusations'

PA0702205293 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0046 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Text] Mexico City, 6 Feb (NOTIMEX)—The Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG) General Command on 6 February rejected that it had refused to participate in the next round of negotiations to be held from 15 to 20 February in Mexico City.

In a news conference held on 5 February, President Jorge Serrano Elias accused the guerrillas of resorting to delaying tactics and of having a "dubious" will to solve the armed conflict that has lasted over 30 years.

In a communique distributed here on 5 February, the Guatemalan guerrillas said that President Serrano's words "are not true, distort the facts, and maliciously convey incomplete information."

The documents added: "The URNG has never refused to attend a meeting, much less the one called by mediator Monsignor Rodolfo Quezada Toruno to be held in February."

The rebels explained that the dialogue was scheduled initially to be held from 9 to 11 February, but that "later on, and without consulting the parties, President Serrano announced it would be held on 15 February, merely because it was more convenient for him."

In addition, the rebel organization claimed the president hinted contents and goals "different from the ones that had been agreed," and this is why "the URNG General Command on 2 February sent a letter to the mediator voicing the organization's concern."

The URNG General Command reiterated that "this type of unfounded accusations actually hinder and distort the atmosphere of equity that is necessary in a negotiation."

On 19 January, President Serrano proposed to the URNG that it sign a peace agreement through uninterrupted negotiations that would last 90 days, and—in the event it is not possible to achieve an agreement during that period of time—order a cease fire.

When he presented his peace proposal before the UN General Assembly, the Guatemalan president also accepted international verification of the human rights situation in his country.

On 22 January, the URNG accepted Serrano's initiative but it demanded the participation of civilian representatives in the negotiation process, the purge of the Army, and the elimination of the Civil Self-Defense Patrols (PAC).

Honduras

Government Minister Resigns, Replacement Named

PA0502225593 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2116 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 5 Feb (NOTIMEX)—On the afternoon of 5 February, Honduran President Rafael Leonardo Callejas announced the resignation Jose Francisco Cardona Arguelles, government and justice minister.

The president announced Cardona will be replaced on 1 March by Jose Celin Discua Elvir.

However, this appointment has raised questions in the country, given the constitutional ban stating that no direct relative of military leaders can head a ministry.

Jose Celin Discua Elvir is the brother of Armed Forces Chief Luis Alonso Discua Elvir.

On 4 February, Jose Francisco Cardona Arguelles, who was still the government and justice minister, was appointed as president of the political commission of the National Party of Honduras, in response to the general elections scheduled for November 1993.

Bomb Explodes at TIEMPO Director's Residence

PA0602014693 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 5 Feb 93 pp 54,55

[Report by Manuel Santiago Cerna]

[Excerpt] San Pedro Sula—During the morning of 4 February, an attack against Yani Rosenthal Hidalgo [director of TIEMPO] took place when a powerful bomb exploded in his house. No casualties were reported even though Mr. Rosenthal's home was damaged considerably.

The bomb exploded at 0230 [0830 GMT] in Mr. Rosenthal's garage, which is located on the first street of 13 Avenida, Suyava neighborhood. The explosion was heard from several blocks away and caused apprehension among his neighbors.

At the time of the explosion, Mr. Rosenthal, his wife Claudia, and Isabela, their one year old daughter, were home along with their two housekeeper Marilu and Ana Murillo.

Although the extent of the damage has not been determined yet, the explosion destroyed two vehicles parked in the garage: a white Mercedes Benz, license plate 45258; and a black, unlicensed Toyota Four Runner.

The walls, doors, and windows of Mr. Rosenthal's house were destroyed by the explosion, as well as, one wall of a room were the housekeepers were sleeping.

According to initial investigations by the Public Security Force (FSP) and agents of the National Investigation Directorate (DNI), the bomb consisted of dynamite with a slow burning fuse in order to give the attackers sufficient time to escape.

When Mr. Rosenthal's guard was questioned by police, he proceeded to contradict himself when he said the bomb had been thrown from a moving blue, gray, or beige car. However, this version did not coincide with the version reported by Marilu Murillo, one of the housekeepers.

Ms. Murillo insisted she had heard a motorcycle driving by the house on two occasions and "moments after the explosion was heard".

The police believe that one of the reasons for the attack is the protection given to television reporter Eduardo Coto by the San Pedro Sula TIEMPO newspaper. Mr. Coto has been harassed by unknown individuals since he allegedly identified the killers of businessman Eduardo Pena Van Tuyl. [Passage omitted]

Reporter in Hiding Offered Military Protection

PA0502201693 San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 5 Feb 93 p 19

[Text] General Luis Alonso Discua, Armed Forces commander in chief, has ordered the 105th Brigade commander, stationed in San Pedro Sula, to contact reporter Eduardo Coto and arrange for his personal security. Coto feels his life is being threatened.

Coto has been in hiding since he learned he is being persecuted after the death of businessman Eduardo Pina Van Tuyl. The reporter and his cameraman recorded a video in which the alleged murderers of the San Pedro businessman appear as they fled on a motorcycle after the crime.

The video was shipped to the United States where, through a series of techniques, the murderers could be identified.

Since then, Coto charged he has received anonymous telephone calls at the television station where he works and that he was being followed by a vehicle. For that reason, Coto decided to go into hiding.

Lieutenant Colonel Napoleon Santos, Armed Forces spokesman, said on 4 February that the Armed Forces commander has given instructions to the San Pedro Sula authorities to offer protection to Coto.

Government Denies Dual Citizenship to Salvadorans

PA0602023493 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1645 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 4 Feb (NOTIMEX)—The Honduran Government denied 15,000 Salvadorans their request for dual citizenship. They inhabit lands along the border, which the International Court of Justice [ICJ] at The Hague delimited in September 1992.

The Secretariat of Planning, Coordination, and Budget [Secplan] issued a communique. It is the agency in charge of coordinating actions regarding the lands the ICJ granted to Honduras.

The ICJ issued its ruling on the disputed areas along the Honduras and El Salvador border in September 1992, an issue the two countries had been litigating for over a century.

The communique states that "the request for dual citizenship, filed by the Salvadorans caught in territories that the ICJ granted Honduras, was not accepted."

The Nahuaterique region, which was part of the Salvadoran department of Morazan, was awarded to Honduras. The Salvadorans living in the area requested dual Honduran-Salvadoran citizenship.

Secplan pointed out that the petition is "inadmissible" because neither the constitution nor the laws of Honduras recognize such a condition.

The Honduran Government suggested that the General Directorate of Population and Immigration Policy set a deadline for the inhabitants of Nahuaterique to decide on their nationality.

The document adds that the request filed by the 15,000 Salvadoran inhabitants to declare Dolores and Nahuaterique regions as "peace zones with no military presence" was also found "inadmissible."

After the ICJ ruling in September 1992, the inhabitants of Nahuaterique asked the Honduran Government to declare the area a "peace zone" with no military presence.

The Secplan communique highlighted another resolution that says "there shall be no eviction of the inhabitants and those who wish to return to El Salvador shall receive compensation."

The document also underscores that on 8 February the Salvadoran flag flying over Nahuaterique will be taken down and the Honduran raised.

Honduras will appoint border officials to the region, which will isolate the inhabitants of Nahuaterique from their relatives living in Perkin, Gotera and other communities in Morazan Department in El Salvador, near the Honduran border.

Nicaragua

UNO Said Dissolved; Opposition Alliance Formed

PA0602005093 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2343 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] Managua, 5 Feb (NOTIMEX)—Leaders of 10 Nicaraguan political parties on 5 February announced the disintegration of the National Opposition Union

(UNO), which brought President Violeta Chamorro to power. They also decided to form the Political Opposition Alliance [Alianza Politica Opositora—APO].

In a communique, the APO explained that the decision to change the name of the political coalition emerged after the conflict in the National Assembly worsened on 11 January and the UNO opted to play the role of opposition to the government.

At the end of 1989, the UNO was made up of 14 parties of different ideologies and had the objective of defeating the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] in the February 1990 elections.

The rift between Chamorro and her former political allies began over the negotiations with the FSLN after the UNO election victory. These negotiations led to the "Transition Protocol" in March 1990 which permitted the peaceful transfer of power.

The UNO repeatedly accused Chamorro of "not fulfilling" her political commitments and of "replacing" the national salvation program with the political, economic, and military interests of the "cogovernment" between the Executive Branch and the Sandinists.

The parties reiterated that the "Transition Protocol" signed by the outgoing and incoming authorities permitted the FSLN to maintain, "in a fraudulent manner, basic control of the Army, police, and the state institutions."

"In view of a presidential agreement" in December, the National Assembly "fell under the control of the Sandinist faction led by General Humberto Ortega. The entire Nicaraguan Government and state also fell under the control of this faction," the APO document stated.

The UNO internal conflicts led to the creation of a new legislative group called the Center Bloc, allied to the Executive Branch, and to the expulsion of three parties, the Socialist Party of Nicaragua, the Central America Integration Party, and the Conservative National Action Party.

Another UNO loss was the merger of the three Social Christian factions into the Christian Democratic Union (UDC), which remains in the UNO. [sentence as received]

The APO is comprised of the Nicaraguan Democratic Movement, the UDC, the Social Democratic Party, the Neo-Liberal Party, the Independent Liberal Party, the Conservative Popular Alliance, and the National Action Party.

The APO also includes the Liberal Constitutionalist Party, the Communist Party of Nicaragua, and the National Conservative Party.

UNO Says Information 'Nonsense'

PA0702000193 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 6 Feb 93 p 4

[Text] National Opposition Union (UNO) sources on 5 February denied a media source report on an alleged name change for that political group. They termed the information reported by a media source as "nonsense."

According to a local newspaper, the UNO, by a decision of its Political Council, adopted the acronym APO (Opposition Political Alliance) [Alianza Politica Opositora] on 4 February.

"What we have done, by official communique, is to ratify that we are an alliance in opposition to the government, as everyone knows, but we have never thought of changing our name," communist Eli Altamirano, a member of the UNO Political Council, stated.

Both Altamirano and other UNO leaders questioned by BARRICADA expressed surprise over the alleged official announcement.

"Change of name? Not as far as I know. In April of 1990, that possibility was discussed, but it was not done and I think that was best. Don't you? For now, I don't think that it is possible," Luis Sanchez Sancho, former National Assembly vice president, answered when questioned by telephone.

Altamirano explained that the response by UNO legislative wing leaders to President Violeta Chamorro—for failing to show up at a meeting convened by mayors—was "misinterpreted" by the media.

"On two occasions the mayors told us that the meeting with Chamorro was called to discuss a political solution to the institutional crisis at the Assembly, and on two occasions the president changed the topic of discussion," the UNO leader said.

Altamirano said Chamorro hopes to obtain UNO support for the legislative agenda for "a Board of Directors, which we have contested." This is rejected by the UNO as long as the current Board of Directors remains in place, he concluded.

President Refuses To Receive UNO Delegation

PA0602161993 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 5 Feb 93 pp 1, 8

[Report by Aura Lila Moreno]

[Text] Representatives of whatever is left of the National Opposition Union [UNO] bloc at the National Assembly missed another meeting with the president. The president invited UNO bloc leaders to a meeting, but they decided not to attend and sent a delegation of three deputies who presented an inflexible, almost vulgar, position. Mrs. Chamorro responded appropriately by not receiving the delegation.

The president did not allow the former UNO representatives to repeat the show [preceding word in English] they presented on 15 January when, according to the president, a commission of six deputies came to her office dressed "as guards." This time, the president sent

spokesman Danilo Lacayo to receive the letter that was brought by the small group of deputies.

"The president expected to receive the UNO bloc leaders but, since they did not come, she has delegated me to receive the letter you bring," the presidential spokesman told Nicolas Bolanos, Edmundo Castillo, and Azucena Ferrey at the government house entrance. Complying with a request by the mayors of the former alliance, Mrs. Chamorro had invited the bloc leaders to a new meeting to broach matters of national interest.

Deputy Ferrey stated that Mrs. Chamorro "distorted reality" by not inviting Dr. Hernaldo Zuniga to the meeting but including National Assembly Board Secretary Frank Duarte. Very annoyed, Deputy Ferrey read the letter, in which UNO insists on rejecting Presidential Decree No. 341 to 392 and censures the current National Assembly Board of Directors, calling it "illegitimate, illegal, and a counterfeit."

Lacayo answered Ferrey and told her that the government was not to be blamed for internal problems in several UNO political parties or for the "crumbling" of UNO remnants. "It is the second time this has happened," the spokesman said. He added that Mrs. Chamorro had shown her willingness to talk and the UNO bloc leaders had shown their "inflexibility."

Frank Duarte, deputy and assembly board secretary, said he believed his political enemies had used a "childish excuse." He said that Dr. Hernaldo Zuniga has resigned from the Conservative National Action Party [ANC] and, thus, was no longer the bloc leader of any political organization.

"I believe they have no intention of negotiating anything with this government or with the National Assembly," Duarte stated. He added that he had spoken with Roberto Urroz, Azucena Ferrey, and Matagalpa Mayor Frank Lanzas to "attempt to initiate a negotiation for them to recover the needed majority in the Assembly." He said, however: "They want everything or nothing, and that is not negotiation."

According to ANC President Frank Duarte, Alfredo Cesar and Azucena Ferrey want to return to exile so they "can again contribute to making war." It is evident, he charged, that war "is a fabulous business" for Cesar and Ferrey, as they used to be the leaders of the former Nicaraguan Resistance.

Duarte said that "the position taken by these people is reason enough not to negotiate, and it would seem they are more intent on seeking some type of confrontation." This opinion was also endorsed by Deputy Azucena Ferrey when she agreed with the opinion voiced a few days ago by Deputy Luis Sanchez that they were working toward "getting rid of this government."

After deeming that the doors leading to a dialogue were already closed, Deputy Ferrey said that "she shares the opinion expressed by Luis Sanchez that measures must be taken for this government to either take up the original UNO plan or get out." Duarte believes there is still time to find a negotiated solution to the UNO political dilemma.

After having partially completed what they set out to do, understanding that they were not going to be received by the president, and after launching all sorts of insults against the government and particularly against President Chamorro and Antonio Lacayo, the three deputies decided to withdraw, completely humiliated and with their tails between their legs.

Military Spokesman Cited on Rearmed Groups

PA0702030793 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 6 Feb 93 pp 1, 5

[Report by Juan Jose Lacayo]

[Text] Seven of the 26 armed groups operating in northern Nicaragua have refused to hold talks with the government and thus they will be fought militarily should they not enter the security zones, said Lieutenant Colonel Ricardo Wheelock, chief of public and foreign relations of the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] on 5 February.

The spokesman refused to specify when EPS troops will act against the rearmed groups in view of a 72-hour deadline announced three days ago by Government Minister Alfredo Mendieta. Wheelock, however, confirmed military operations against criminal groups have continued.

When asked by reporters, he said the most political groups, such as those under Chacal [Jose Angel Talavera] and Charrito, are operating in the areas of Quilali and Murra. Wheelock added they receive the support from and are manipulated by politicians in Managua.

Wheelock condemned those who take up arms to kill and lashed out at right-wing politicians who promote violence "and other more dangerous actions such as disturbing order to oust the government."

He revealed some of these groups receive support from exiles in Miami. Wheelock clarified, however, that these groups do not receive support from Central American governments. He added their weapons come from hidden caches.

Despite the reporters' insistence, Wheelock refused to comment on the Presidency's orders regarding a military offensive and deadline given to the rebels. He insisted that the EPS will follow orders issued by civilian authorities.

On 4 February, the deadline Minister Mendieta announced reportedly expired, but he had left open the possibility of exploring all negotiation possibilities, including a suspension of military operations until the rearmed groups return to security zones.

In this regard, Wheelock said there are reports that certain armed groups returned to the security zones.

In voicing the EPS stand on the crisis in northern Nicaragua, the military spokesman described it as a "political" not a military problem. "I mean, the solution to the problem in the north is political, economic, and social; the use of force alone will not solve it," he added.

Wheelock said small army groups have implemented the "All for Stability" Operation in northern Nicaragua since December, which are in pursuit of the groups that are killing, kidnapping, and stealing while the disarmament process is under way.

"We are continuing to pursue small groups involved in criminal actions regardless of the political agreements," Wheelock said.

He added the Army is active 5 km from the outer perimeter of the security zones and is using no artillery and mortars in its operations.

Wheelock underscored the political, social, and military work performed by the Special Disarmament Brigade [BED] with the participation of recompas, recontras, revueltos [mixed group of recontras and recompas], Indians, and soldiers.

He stated that in 1992 the BED recovered 43,447 war weapons, including 42,447 rifles, 156 machine guns of various calibers, 445 rocket launchers, 129 mortars, 12,856 grenades, 4,184 rockets, 6,197 mines, and 4,900 kg of explosives. In total, weapons weighing in at 6,623,390 kg were seized, recorded, and destroyed.

Wheelock said that this amount of weapons is sufficient to equip the Armies of Honduras and Guatemala.

The spokesman added that reports indicate that in northern Nicaragua there are still 30,000 weapons, of which 15,000 are in the countryside.

During the news conference Wheelock underscored Italian aid totaling $1.7 million will no longer be used to purchase weapons but to carry out certain programs for the demobilized.

He announced that a program to help the poorest of the demobilized will start soon. Each demobilized soldier will receive $80 in products and food and $500 (in Cordobas) to help them establish small businesses or cooperatives as a group. This will be complemented by a comprehensive job and medical assistance program, among other benefits.

Wheelock flatly rejected accusations by former Deputy Presidency Minister Antonio Ibarra against the Navy and announced the Army will file slander charges should he be extradited.

He also reaffirmed the Army is not interested in establishing a military service, because its 16,000 members are capable of tackling any military problems throughout the country.

Clashes, Casualties, and Rearmed Groups

Military Operations From 22 December to 5 January

Clashes	29
Ambushes	6
Harassments	2
Pursuit Operations	18
Armed Forces Casualties	
Dead	7
Injured	10
Missing	1
Criminal Group Casualties	
Dead	50
Injured	35
Captured	1
Total	86

*The actions of these groups resulted in two dead civilians, two injured, and 10 kidnapped.

Armed Groups and Number of Men Per Region

Region I	nine groups	230 recontras
Region V	nine groups	290 recontras and recompas
Region VI	eight groups	200 men
Total	26 groups	720 men

*The number of groups and men could vary.
**Source: EPS

Rebel Commander Views Truce With Army

PA0702043193 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 5 Feb 93 p 8

[Text] San Rafael del Norte—"We would have to oversee that the government complies with the signed agreements and once compliance was confirmed, we would no longer have reason to be armed," Roberto Garcia Castro, alias Commander "Nortiel", has stated in an exclusive interview with LA PRENSA.

The rebel leader explained that he has spent 26 of his 41 years as a guerrilla. He stated that he fought with Pomares against Somozism, but in 1980, given the turn of events, he joined the "Milpas" [Anti-Somozist Peoples Militia].

Here is the interview:

[LA PRENSA] Commander "Nortiel," there is talk of a declaration of war by the Army against you, but the orders were changed and a truce was decreed. How do you view this truce decreed by the Army?

["Nortiel"] The Army has spoken of truces before. We know that they never comply, however, so our troops do not trust them.

[LA PRENSA] Commander, what are the specific requests you are making to the government?

["Nortiel"] The government knows perfectly well what we are asking for, just as they know that they have not complied. We have been abandoned and the Army has committed horrendous crimes, blaming us for them; they have murdered peasants, workers, and especially relatives of recontras.

[LA PRENSA] Have you ordered your people not to commit abuses against the population in the mountains?

["Nortiel"] That is correct. We have instructed the population to that effect because that is the most powerful weapon that we have. [sentence as published]

[LA PRENSA] In other words, are peasants cooperating with your effort any way they can, even amid difficulties?

["Nortiel"] That is correct. And we thank them for that effort from the bottom of our hearts.

[LA PRENSA] You told me that you have reports on abuses committed by the Army. Can you name a few?

["Nortiel"] That is correct. In Nueva Segovia, while accompanying Commander "Charrito" to a Staff meeting, we went by a place known as "El Refugio." The next day, they committed a hideous crime; they came out from "El Jobo" Cooperative and machine-gunned the head of the Cordoba Pravia family and his two daughters. "They said that we did it, but later his wife realized that we did not do it."

[LA PRENSA] Commander, I can see that you carry modern weapons. Who is your weapons supplier?

["Nortiel"] The only different weapon is the one I use. It is an M-16A2 rifle; all other weapons are supplied by the Army, from whom we take them.

[LA PRENSA] What would be your call to Violeta Chamorro's administration?

["Nortiel"] Well, I would ask her to fulfill the promises she made to the people. What she is doing is not right.

[LA PRENSA] Commander Nortiel, would you be willing to surrender your weapons if the government fulfills its word?

["Nortiel"] Right. If the government fulfills its promises, we would be willing to surrender our weapons, provided that our guarantees and rights are respected.

11 Surfacing Armed Groups Said To Threaten Peace

PA0602041893 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 5 Feb 93 pp 1, 8

[Report by Vladimir Lopez]

[Text] Drums of war threaten to rupture the relative peace reigning in Nicaragua as 11 armed groups, which represent various political views, begin to surface. The most prominent is a paramilitary movement founded by Managua Mayor Arnoldo Aleman.

A high-ranking officer of the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] leaked information stating that the group formed by Aleman calls itself "Nicaraguan Democratic Civic Action" [Accion Civica Democratica Nicaraguense] and is made up exclusively of former Somozist political prisoners and former members of the National Guard.

The source assured that this new group, to which no military actions have been credited, operates in Chinandega, Leon, and Managua Departments.

"They say they oppose the Chamorro administration, demand the removal of Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo, and say they are against General Humberto Ortega remaining as chief of the EPS," the source reported.

Wheelock Neither Denies or Confirms

Lieutenant Colonel Ricardo Wheelock Roman, the head of public relations of the EPS, neither confirmed nor denied the existence of such a group.

"It is the minister of government who, in any event, should tell the people whether such a paramilitary group exists," the EPS spokesperson said.

Another Group Comes Out of Its Shell

The same source revealed that there is another paramilitary group called the "Patriotic Opposition Union" [Union Patriotica Opositora], which has carried out certain action in the areas between Mombacho hill and Nandaime municipality, Granada.

The military source said "most of its members are from La Conception municipality, Masaya, and all follow the lines of Alfredo Cesar, Virgilio Godoy, and Arnoldo Aleman."

Identified With Mayors

The detailed information provided by the military source said that there is a group called the "Guerrilla Front for Democracy" [Frente Guerrillero para la Democracia] and the "Let Us Save Democracy" commando group [comando Salvemos la Democracia], which aligns themselves with the mayors who carried out the uprising in Chontales Department.

The source added that there is another front called "Jorge Salazar," made up mainly of thieves and criminals. The group is responsible for vandalism in Boaco and Camoapa.

It stated that the "Jorge Salazar" harasses the rearmed rebels participating in talks with the government and that they killed two recontra leaders in an ambush.

The officer listed the existence of the "380 North Front" and the "National Salvation Democratic Front" made up of recontras who are willing to negotiate with the government.

The Recompas

The source highlighted the presence of the even stronger so-called "Leftist Punitive Forces," FPI; the "Revolutionary Alliance of Workers and Peasants," formed by revueltos [mixed group of recontras and recompas] operating in Rio Blanco; and the "United Peasant Armed Front," [Frente Armado de Campesinos Unidos] formed by recompas.

"There are a total of 11 armed groups operating in Nicaragua, some of which operate in urban areas. This places Nicaragua in serious danger of returning to war," the military source said.

Panama

Further on Kidnapping of 3 U.S. Missionaries

Subversive Group Claims Responsibility

PA0602022393 Paris AFP in Spanish 0054 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Text] Panama City, 5 Feb (AFP)—The 20 December Torrijist Patriotic Vanguard [Vanguardia Patriotica Torrijista 20 de Diciembre—VPT-20], a leftist subversive group, on the night of 5 February claimed responsibility for the kidnapping of three U.S. missionaries, accusing them of being CIA agents.

In a document delivered to AFP, the VPT-20 stated that the missionaries, who were kidnapped on 31 January in Darien, are on Colombian territory and guarded by guerrillas of the 34th Front of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC).

VPT-20 Says Missionaries CIA Agents

PA0602033493 Paris AFP in Spanish 0236 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Report by James Aparicio]

[Excerpts] Panama City, 5 Feb (AFP)—On 5 February, the previously unknown 20 December Torrijist Patriotic Vanguard (VPT-20) claimed responsibility for the kidnapping of three U.S. missionaries on the border with Colombia and accused them of being CIA agents.

A VPT-20 spokesman, identified with the alias of "Mauro," delivered a document to AFP and assured that the kidnapping took place on 31 January in Darien Province with the support of the 34th Front of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC).

"Commando units of our organization are holding CIA agents David Mankin, Richard Tenenor, and Mark Rich," the group's communique stated.

According to Panamanian President Guillermo Endara, Mankin, Tenenor, and Rich are members of the New Tribes Mission, a U.S. religious organization similar to the Summer Institute of Linguistics (ILV).

The kidnapping of the three missionaries is the first insurgent action claimed by the VPT-20, which stated it "has opted for political-military struggle" and has a "nationwide presence," although its name was unknown until now.

The VPT-20 document is signed with the pseudonyms of Francis Dominguez Lopez, Silvia Henriquez Peralta, Efrain Octavio Rivas, and Carlos Lezcano Montenegro, who are identified as commanders of the group's staff.

These names are those of Panamanian combatants who died during the U.S. invasion of Panama on 20 December 1989 to oust General Manuel Antonio Noriega. [passage omitted]

"Mauro" told AFP that the VPT-20 monitored all movements by Mankin, Tenenor, and Rich since September 1992 and discovered "they were asking questions about movements and Panamanian members of the FARC."

"Under the guise of religious missionaries, the three agents conducted intelligence work in Darien, in the areas of El Real de Santa Maria and Yaviza to Paya, Pucuro, and Punusa, in open violation of Panamanian and Colombian sovereignty," the VPT-20 stated.

The group added the kidnapping of the three missionaries "constitutes, above all, an act of legitimate defense of our organization and of Colombian patriots."

The VPT-20 warned that the rescue operation involving an elite group of Panama's National Police made up of about 200 men could lead to the death of Panamanian police because "should police clash with one our columns, we will respond unhesitantly."

The VPT-20 demanded that the Panamanian and U.S. Governments withdraw the men sent to Darien Province and refrain from sending additional "agents such as those currently in our hands."

"We want them to leave our borders immediately and urge those who advocate a forceful retaliation to think it over, because the nationwide silence that currently exists could be broken," the group stated.

Issues Communique

PA0602162893 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 6 Feb 93 p A2

[Communique issued by the 20 December Torrijist Patriotic Vanguard; place and date not given]

[Text] To the Panamanian People:

The 20 December Torrijist Patriotic Vanguard [Vanguardia Patriotica Torrijista 20 de Diciembre—VPT-2] states to the nation that since 30 January, commandos from our organization have been holding CIA agents David Mankin, Richard Tenenor, and Mark Rich.

Under the disguise of religious missionaries, the three agents were carrying out intelligence work in Darien in the area between Real de Santamaria, Yaviza and Paya, Pucuro, and Punusa. This is an outright violation: first of Panamanian and Colombian sovereignty, and second a violation by their actions against the tasks of organization and struggle that we patriots of both nations are engaged in. Actions like these, kept quiet by the corrupt governments of Panama and Colombia, are the result of violations of the United States to appear before their courts.

The VPT-20 declares that holding the U.S. agents is an act of completely legitimate defense of our organization, Colombian patriots, sovereignty, and our right to give support to our people to fight against regimes of hunger, such as those in Colombia and Panama. The latter is an illegitimate and deceitful regime, installed over the bodies and bloodshed of more than 7,000 Panamanians murdered on 20 December 1989.

If Endara and the drug trafficking and money laundering criminals who currently usurp power in Panama think that this has been forgotten, let them know that our martyrs are not dead to us or forgotten.

The United States, and particularly Mr. Deane Hinton, directly responsible for the slaughter of more than 1,000 Salvadorans in El Mozote in 1981, should know that cover up organizations such as the New Tribe or the Summer Institute of Linguistics (IVL) are no surprise to revolutionaries. We know that these institutions have been ousted from more than one place for activities like those we are now reporting and which we have been observing for months, in the case of the agents we are now holding.

Since 31 January, the Southern Command has known that the agents were being held but not until 1 February did it report this to its subordinates in the Endara regime. Endara and Juan Bautista Chevalier, government and justice minister (whose son is engaged in drug trafficking) irresponsibly sent approximately 200 men to Panama's border with Colombia. The alleged goal was to rescue the agents in an operation where the soldiers, candidates for death, are Panamanian policemen. The United States merely sends sophisticated communications and search equipment.

We want the Endara regime to know that we understand the true goal of this operation. Under no circumstances are they going to realize this so-called rescue, quite the contrary. Even though we are not in favor of Panamanians dying in this type of action, if just one policeman meets up with one of our columns, we will not hesitate to react. Furthermore, it is regrettable that Panamanian soldiers, scorned and massacred on 20 December 1989, are marching hand in hand with the murderers of their brothers and people.

Endara and his corrupt administration, criminals in blue suits, have no morale to attempt to present the image of a strong government. In three years they have dragged the nation to the most dramatic levels of poverty, unemployment, and have demonstrated rampant contempt for the Panamanian nation, while they keep patriots incarcerated merely because they dared to defend the nation.

VPT-20 demands that the Panamanian and U.S. Governments immediately withdraw their troops from the Colombian-Panamanian border. We demand that the United States cease its permanent and shameless intervention in our internal matters, and that it stop sending agents, who, like those currently in power, are the expression of that permanent intervention policy and of the despicable scorn they have for our nation's laws.

The forces should be immediately withdrawn from our borders. Those who are asking for acts of force against us should seriously ponder what that could mean, because the national silence that prevails could be broken.

[Signed] Standing or Dead
Never on Our Knees Commanders:
Francis Dominguez Lopez
Silvia Henriquez Peralta
Efrain Octovio Rivas
Carlos Lezcano Montenegro

Former Noriega Chief Said Involved

PA0702165593 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 7 Feb 93 p 1 A

[Article by Manuel Alvarez Cedeno]

[Text] Captain Asuncion Gaitan, former security chief of deposed General Manuel Antonio Noriega, could be behind the kidnapping of three U.S. missionaries during the week of 31 January in Darien Province by Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) guerrillas, a Panamanian intelligence source has reported.

The source, who spoke provided his name not be disclosed, told LA PRENSA that according to reliable reports, Capt. Gaitan reportedly coordinated the kidnapping of the three Americans missing since 31 January in the Darien jungle.

The three New Tribes missionaries—Richard Tenenor, Mark Rich, and David Mankin—were kidnapped by

some 150 FARC rebels in Paya, an Indian village close to the Panamanian-Colombian border.

A communique issued by the 20 December Torrijist Patriotic Front (VPT-20)—an alleged Panamanian guerrilla group—disseminated by the local media stated that the missionaries were kidnapped by VPT-20 and FARC forces and that they are in Colombia.

The source also said the names used by the presumed VPT-20 leaders in their communique are actually "the names of several Panamanians who died" as a result of the 1989 U.S. invasion of Panama that ousted Gen. Manuel A. Noriega and dismantled the Panama Defense Forces.

The same source said that according to reports, Gaitan was in Panama in December 1992 visiting some of his relatives. The source added Gaitan always had "very close relations" with the FARC leadership.

"Gaitan, Gonzalo Gonzalez, and Heraclides Sucre might be involved in the kidnapping," the source insisted.

The three above mentioned military officers were closely linked to Noriega, and according to U.S. intelligence, they are "of the few who dare to take action."

Gaitan mysteriously escaped from his asylum at the Vatican Embassy. Sucre and Gonzalez were in asylum in Peru and later escaped to Cuba, it was reported.

VPT-20 said it kidnapped the U.S. missionaries, because "they are CIA agents."

Government sources reported that 17 illegal aliens arrested by Panamanian police who are searching for the missionaries in Darien were taken to Panama City on 6 February.

Endara on Kidnappees, Corruption, ARI Debates

PA0502173593 Panama City Radio KW Continente in Spanish 2021 GMT 4 Feb 93

[News conference by President Guillermo Endara at the Golden Room of the Presidential Palace in Panama City, moderated by Presidential Press Secretary Rene Hernandez, with foreign and local correspondents—live]

[Excerpts] [Hernandez] Alexander Calderon of Radio Mia.

[Calderon] My question is related to the kidnapping of the three foreign missionaries in Darien. Will rescue operations be solely in the hands of Panamanian authorities or will U.S. and Colombian units be in the area? Is this not a proof of constant incursions by Colombian rebels, something the area's residents have often reported?

[Endara] Let us try to take this in order. Reports have been filed on many occasions about the incursion of Colombian guerrillas into Panamanian territory. The reports stated that the rebels were using Panamanian territory to rest or take time off. These reports were never corroborated; in fact, every time we heard that there were guerrillas in a town, we sent officials into the zone and they would deny the report. In this case, we have proof and witnesses that guerrillas entered Panama and kidnapped these three pastors or missionaries. The National Police, Institutional Protection Service, Judicial Technical Police [PTJ], National Air Service, and National Marine Service alone are conducting the operation in Darien. They are Panamanian units. Through the Foreign Ministry, we notified the Colombian Government and we understand the Colombian Government is sending units to investigate on its territory. There is no plan for the Colombian Army to enter Panamanian territory. Each will stay in its own territory.

[Calderon] What will be done in the future to avoid these situations?

[Endara] In our new budget we are creating a new border guard. I do not recall what its name will be, but we will have a greater presence at the border.

[Calderon] Thank you.

[Endara] You are welcome. [passage omitted]

[Hernandez] Javier Ortega of Radio Exitosa.

[Ortega] Good afternoon, Mr. President.

[Endara] Good afternoon.

[Ortega] Recent reports by THE WASHINGTON POST and THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE discuss the rise in corruption in your government and drug trafficking since you have been in office. Those same publications stress your ties to the Falcon-Magluta trial. This campaign greatly resembles the campaign unleashed in Panama before 20 December 1989. My question is, what is your opinion of all of this? Do you think this campaign could have the same consequences?

[Endara] I must begin by saying that my conscience is totally at ease, totally at ease. [repeats himself] I know that article is totally unfair, slanderous, and libelous, not just against me but against the Panamanian Government in general and people, since it refers to Panama in general. I think the article was written in bad faith and it is full of lies. I contacted two of the people mentioned, and they told me—one in a letter and the other verbally— that their remarks were totally distorted. One of them, Monsignor Marcos Gregorio MacGrath, wrote me a letter. The other was U.S. Ambassador Deane Hinton, with whom I had breakfast on 4 February and discussed the matter.

I think the article is in bad faith. It may be part of a campaign. I do not know. I am calm. I know we are doing all we can to fight drug trafficking and money laundering. The men who are mentioned there were never clients of the law firm I belong to. We never knew them, never did any work for them, and never handled any of their money.

[Ortega] Thank you.

[Hernandez] Carlos Vasquez of EL UNIVERSAL magazine.

[Vasquez] Good afternoon, Mr. President. Out of respect for the people of Panama who are listening to us, we will ask the following question: Do you think it was necessary to summon the National Assembly to extraordinary sessions so they can earn 117,250 balboas for 35 days of work, while there are families who do not even earn 50 balboas a week and cannot meet their daily needs?

[Endara] I summoned the extraordinary sessions to debate four very important bills. The National Assembly did not have time to debate them during the past period of ordinary sessions. The extraordinary sessions are fully outlined in the Constitution. I, and many other people, including legislators, deemed those bills to be very important. Three of those bills have been approved. They are all very important. The Interoceanic Region Authority [ARI] bill, to be specific, is of the most vital importance for future generations.

We are talking about properties that have reverted to Panama and the large number of properties that will be reverted. Panama must be in a position to handle them in the best manner possible and for the greatest benefit of the Panamanian nation.

The reverted properties are worth many millions of dollars. The way the administration of reverted properties is currently organized shows total anarchy. The military created it that way to be the only ones who would handle those properties. They wanted to usurp Fort Clayton and install infantry battalions there. They wanted to occupy Howard Air Force Base and bring their planes there. The idea was to turn the reverted areas into military areas. That was the military's idea, which is why they left this so poorly organized. The ARI law is absolutely necessary. I have nothing to do with the legislators' pay. The four bills that prompted me to summon the extraordinary session are indispensable for the good of the nation. [passage omitted]

[Hernandez] Lastenia Murillo from Radio Ancon.

[Murillo] Good afternoon, Mr. President. On the morning of 4 February you met with a few members of various political parties. What happened in these meetings? Is it true that the date for the elections will be changed next year?

[Endara] No. We talked about different topics. I can tell you that I received an electoral code reform bill from the Electoral Tribunal. I was asked to study it and use my initiative at the Legislative Assembly because, unfortunately, the Electoral Tribunal cannot make this kind of initiative at the Legislative Assembly. I was asked to study the bill and submit it to the Legislative Assembly. I asked the political parties to study the reforms proposed by the Electoral Tribunal and to submit a report to me. I hope that by the end of February we can study the bill at the Cabinet Council so the cabinet can authorize the government and justice minister to submit the bill to the Legislative Assembly for approval in early March 1993. That was one of the topics we discussed.

As for the date of the elections, there has been much speculation about that, but I guarantee you the date will not be moved forward. There has been some informal talk about that, but it is up to the Electoral Tribunal to decide. There has been talk that the elections will be held on 8 May 1994, which coincides with the 1989 elections, which were held on 7 May 1989, so the date of the elections will not be changed. [passage omitted]

[Hernandez] Maite Sachrisson from Omega Stereo.

[Sachrisson] My question is about the three alleged U.S. missionaries who have been kidnapped. Until now, no one has officially taken responsibility for the kidnapping. Yesterday 200 [words indistinct] insurgent forces were sent to investigate. According to the U.S. Government, these forces are apparently delaying the progress that the United States could be making in the case.

[Unidentified speaker] Delaying the investigations?

[Sachrisson] Yes, delaying the investigations, because these forces are experts in local, not jungle areas. Also, the community questions the sending of 200 men [words indistinct], when the crime rate here is rising every day.

[Endara] Officially I would like to state that I do not know where that 200 man number came from. The number of men deployed out there is confidential, and I am not going to reveal this information. It is necessary, it is necessary [repeats himself], that the government, the Panamanian nation, responds firmly to this act, staged by a guerrilla group from a neighboring country that is our friend. If this act is repeated, what peace will the people of Darien have? They too are Panamanians. My friend from Darien [words indistinct] said to me: The Darien dwellers are also Panamanians. What peace will the Darienites have if this continues? This time it was U.S. citizens who were the victims, but tomorrow it could be Darien residents. This incident has made the people of Darien very nervous.

We must take the strongest possible measures within our limitations. We are doing just this. I do not believe that in doing so we are overlooking any other area. There are enough policemen in Panama City and throughout the Republic. Undoubtedly, I would prefer that these men were here, but they are carrying out a very important task for Panama. I would like to take advantage of your question to make a public statement that I hope will reach those people. Among the instructions I have given the group that is going to Darien, is that under no circumstances are they to negotiate... [pause] how do you say... [pauses] not reward... [pauses] ransom with any group for those gentlemen. Negotiations are totally out of the question. Why? Because if we agree to negotiate a ransom at this time, these guerrillas will be coming into Panama every day and kidnapping people for us to pay the ransom. [passage omitted]

[Hernandez] Justino Gonzalez of CRITICA LIBRE.

[Gonzalez] Mr. President, reports from Darien Province are funneled through the Presidency, I would like to know details of the operations conducted by the task force in that jungle region. What areas have they patrolled? What news do you have about the areas they have inspected? Where are the alleged Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia [FARC] camps located? What about the logistics, how long can the Panamanian forces remain in the area? What are the possibilities of clashes with the rebels?

[Endara] That is a very comprehensive question. I will try to answer what I can. There is some confidential information, which obviously I cannot give you now, but I believe I can give you much information of interest to you. Most of the Panamanian forces assigned to the area have already been deployed there. The center of operation is La Palma.

[Unidentifed speaker] It is El Real.

[Endara] That is right, El Real. They are already in El Real. I always get it confused with La Palma. Groups are already near the border region. Constant flights of helicopters and planes are being ordered in an attempt to locate the Colombian rebel forces. I received a report a few minutes ago and, according to this report, the rebels have not been located yet. There are no signs they have set up camp. At least, we have not discovered any, which could lead us to conclude they have returned to Colombia. It is possible they may have returned to Colombia, but there is no evidence of this, so we have to operate on the assumption that they are still inside Panama. We have to continue conducting our search operations in Panama. The policemen there are well equipped. They have their own weapons. [passage omitted]

[Hernandez] Juan Zamorano of AP will ask the next question.

[Zamorano] Good afternoon, Mr. President. Do you think the abducted missionaries are being endangered by your banning negotiations with the kidnappers? We are dealing here with drug traffickers or possibly guerrillas.

[Endara] Are you saying the missionaries are being endangered?

[Zamorano] Yes, the missionaries who were abducted.

[Endara] I think they are already in danger. If I allow negotiations on ransom, then all Darien residents would be in danger, not just the missionaries. All Darien residents would be in danger if I allow negotiations. If we reach an agreement now and give the guerrillas a specific sum of money, whenever they need money again they will come to Panama and kidnap a mayor, official, or group of Darien citizens. This would prompt us to negotiate with them again and make another payment; they will be doing this continuously. It will never end, which is why I banned negotiations on a ransom.

[Zamorano] Mr. President, I have another question. Have you received support from other presidents for your proposal to form a group of labor leaders to travel to Europe and present our demands to the EC?

[Endara] Sure. I learned from the papers that the Costa Rican Government fully agrees with this idea. I am under the impression that all the presidents will support this idea.

In the next few days, Commerce and Industries Minister Alfaro will be sent to Guayaquil, where he will meet with his colleagues from other countries. At that meeting, they will prepare an agenda and Minister Alfaro will propose that this topic be included on the agenda. I am almost certain that this idea will be accepted by all countries.

[Zamorano] How do you expect to pay....

[Hernandez, interrupting] Excuse me, colleague....

[Endara, interrupting] In the case of Panama, the government will pay the travel expenses. This is what I am proposing.

[Hernandez] Addis Urieta of NOTIMEX will ask the last question.

[Urieta] Good afternoon, Mr. President. To clarify this matter, will the Panamanian Government allow the missionaries to die by maintaining its position not to pay a ransom? Secondly, how can the Panamanian Government assert that the FARC kidnapped the missionaries if no contact has been made? Why has it been ruled out that a clandestine group in Panama may be behind this?

[Endara] Indeed, it could be another group, but the report we received from witnesses of the kidnapping indicate that the kidnappers identified themselves as FARC members. Perhaps they were lying; perhaps another group did it to incriminate the FARC. These are all possibilities.

We said it was the FARC because they identified themselves as FARC members before the witnesses to the kidnapping. Thank you, very much.

[Hernandez] Thank you, Mr. President. We thank our colleagues for joining us in this news conference. So long.

Legislators Comment on Interoceanic Region Bill

PA0602203193 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1730 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Text] Only two of the 67 articles of the bill creating the Interoceanic Region Authority [ARI] have been approved.

According to government party legislators, the debates on this bill are being obstructed by the Democratic Revolutionary Party [PRD] bench.

[Begin recording, Olimpo Saez, member of the Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement, a member of the

governing party coalition] The Christian Democratic Party and the governing parties have reached certain agreements on this bill. But untimely, lengthy harangues by members of the PRD, which are uttered twice for each article, in addition to the lengthy questionnaires they have presented to Finance Minister Mario Galindo, who is defending the ARI project, are making these debates endless.

As I have told you: We have been debating for three weeks and we have discussed only two articles plus commission reports. [end recording]

In the government's opinion, the PRD is the main obstacle to the approval of this bill. PRD legislator Alberto Aleman Boyd has rejected these charges. He mentioned that there is quorum at the Legislative Assembly thanks to the presence of the PRD bench.

[Begin Aleman Boyd recording] We have been at the plenary meeting and this has assured the necessary quorum. By saying this, I want to clearly establish that it is completely false that the PRD bench is boycotting the ARI project, as some are saying. We are there for the debates. [end recording]

Comptroller General on Plans for Reverted Areas

PA0702192993 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 7 Feb 93 p 1a

[Report by Juan Pritsiolas]

[Text] An official document establishes that the U.S. areas that will revert to Panama are worth $31 billion. The document notes that the properties that have been reverted and will revert include 4,829 buildings, 34,000 hectares of land, and 18.3 square meters of developed zones.

That information is contained in a report by the Legislative Assembly Foreign Relations Committee, chaired by Olimpo Saez, which was drafted in connection with the debates on the Interoceanic Authority Region [ARI] bill.

The report adds that 5,620 hectares out of the total areas that have been reverted to date will be used to develop port, residential, industrial, tourism, farming, livestock, and institutional projects and an ecological preserve.

The Foreign Relations Committee notes that urban planners are proposing that the military bases be incorporated into the development of the nation by establishing multisector zones. A general plan is required on the use of the land that will define the area destined for that purpose.

The bill, with 67 articles, that creates the ARI as the body that promotes and administers the reverted properties is currently in second debate. After several weeks of debates, only two articles have been approved so far. In the opinion of Comptroller General Ruben Dario Carles, the approval of the ARI bill would be one of the most important contributions the President Guillermo Endara administration and the Legislative Assembly will make to the development of the country. After 15 years since signing the Torrijos-Carter Treaties, a "confused and undefined" situation has arisen, which has not allowed Panamanians to use properly the reverted properties, the official said.

Carles said that although the United States in the future will return more properties—including 4,829 buildings—Panamanians "have not properly organized to take advantage" of them.

He described as important the initiative by President Guillermo Endara to establish an entity to administer the areas that have reverted and will revert, which must have the backing of all Panamanians.

In addition to the ARI bill, the comptroller warned, we must also "begin at once" studies to give shape to the organization that will have to "administer and run the Canal" beginning in 2000.

Carles disclosed that, at the initiative of President Endara and under the coordination of Joaquin Vallarino, chairman of the Ad Hoc Panama Canal Commission, a group of Panamanians is conducting research and preparatory works that will make it possible to enact the necessary legislation to create the entity that will administer the waterway.

He also stated that the group working on this has the "full support" of Panama Canal Administrator Gilberto Guardia, U.S. Ambassador Deane Hinton, and General George A. Joulwan, U.S. Southern Command commander in chief.

According to Carles, Vallarino's "technical and professional" commission will accelerate the pace of its work in the weeks to come to consult with all of the country's sectors.

PTJ Director Denies Surveillance Charges

PA0602202993 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 6 Feb 93 p 2a

[Report by Ibeth Vega G.]

[Text] Technical Judicial Police [PTJ] Director Jaime Abad categorically denied accusations that his institution was spying on Revolutionary Democratic Party [PRD] members or members of any political party.

Abad's statements were made during a ceremony at which the U.S. Embassy donated to the PTJ three vehicles to assist in the fight against crime.

On 4 February, two former agents revealed to a local media representative that the PTJ had carried out surveillance operations against PRD members.

According to Abad: "This institution does not conduct surveillance operations. The people who have made these charges will have to prove them. I categorically reject them."

According to information that appeared in local news media, people under telephone surveillance include legislators Gerardo Gonzalez, Balbina Herrera, and Miguel Bush.

According to the information, details of the surveillance operations are included in an Office of the Attorney General file, as well as in PTJ files under the code name of "SUSU."

PTJ Director Abad said: "the PTJ does not spy on anyone. We only investigate everyday crimes, because that is what we are given resources for."

Abad said that the people who have made the alleged surveillance charges are former PTJ members who were dismissed as a result of corruption. They are merely trying to tarnish the institution.

Brazil

Economic Program Expected in '90 to 100 Days'

PY0502144993 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 4 Feb 93 Economy and Business Section p 3

[Text] Brasilia—Finance Minister Paulo Haddad yesterday announced that the government will release its program for stabilizing the economy in 90 to 100 days. The economic team is studying the basic guidelines, over which ministers have conflicting positions.

The unification of the exchange rate, for example, is upheld by Industry and Commerce Minister Andrade Vieira but is not accepted by Haddad who wants at least three months to prepare the country for a "deeper" fight against inflation.

The program does not feature nonconventional shocks or break contractual regulations. The minister mentioned several proposals but insisted that the government has not yet adopted any final position. Here are the main parts of the minister's interview.

Exchange rate—Haddad is against modifying the exchange rate policy at this time. He said that Andrade Vieira's proposal to adopt a single exchange rate and eliminate two or three federal banks "is not a government proposal."

Exchange Bonds [titulo cambial]—The minister said that the government has not decided on the creation of a new public bond guaranteed by exchange reserves. He said: "This idea has been considered by the academic and entrepreneurial communities." Haddad added that the economic team is "preparing the conditions" for implementing the economic program. "It will be a program without shocks and without breaking contractual regulations. It will be released in 90 to 100 days."

Fiscal Adjustment—The government is studying fiscal adjustment results. It expects to use from $3.5 to $4 billion from IPMF [Provisional Tax on Financial Operations] revenues to redeem public bonds.

Tariffs—Haddad yesterday received Andrade Vieira's list of products on which import tariffs will be reduced. The minister said he will order the reduction only on some products and that the government does not intend to implement the final stage of tariff reductions on an earlier date. This stage is scheduled for June.

State-run enterprises—A working group will design a new salary policy for state-run enterprises within 30 days. He said: "The president is concerned about state-run enterprise expenditures." Technicians have detected many state enterprises which paid the 1993 Christmas bonus in January 1993; others are paying off the losses caused by the economic plans, like an 84.5 percent inflationary loss caused by the Collor plan; others, despite their weak financial situation, are paying "skyrocketing" salaries.

Fusca [local name for the Volkswagen Bug]—Haddad said that the agreement with car manufacturers has nothing to do with a request to the president for production of popular cars. "The president wants to see the country producing a popular car," the minister said. "Franco received some proposals and is studying them."

Franco Signs Decree on Forest Exploitation

PY0502154293 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] President Itamar Franco has signed a decree regulating the exploitation of the Atlantic Forest.

Environment Minister Coutinho Jorge has stated that this new law will allow state governments and environment councils to carry out a sustainable development project in the region.

[Begin Jorge recording] This law will make it possible to solve urban conflicts that exist in that region; it will be possible to implement a sustainable development program for various species of flora, including palms, the trumpet tree, and even ornamental flowers. Until now their exploitation, although practically prohibited, was being done in a clandestine manner.

This law will allow the implementation of important works which were previously prohibited. These projects will now be approved by the state councils and endorsed by the National Environment Council. This law represents a new, modern, realistic approach that takes into account the theory of sustainable development as approved by Rio-92 [conference on ecology and development]. [end recording]

Minister Coutinho Jorge also stated that this new law will allow the resumption of work to broaden Highway BR-116.

President of Chamber of Deputies Interviewed

PY0502234093 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 4 Feb 93 p 4

[Interview with Inocencio Oliveira, Chamber of Deputies president and Liberal Front Party deputy for Pernambuco, by reporter Rita Tavares; place and date not given]

[Text] [Tavares] Do you think it will be possible to restore the credibility of Congress?

[Oliveira] I think we are at a very good stage. Since President Fernando Collor's impeachment Congress' image has considerably improved in people's eyes. I think the prestige of Congress will be restored if legislative proceedings are expedited—in order to meet society's demands instead of ignoring them—and if problems are resolved when they are raised, instead of waiting until they are too old.

[Tavares] You have spoken about open proceedings. Do you have a plan for the Joint Budget Committee, whose work has caused suspicion for the past two years?

[Oliveira] I will talk with Senate President Humberto Lucena about giving a new structure to the Committee, trying to make it work throughout the year, preparing not only the Union's general budget but also supervising the release of funds and the implementation of work. I would like the Committee to work outside, visiting states and projects. If irregularities are detected, they will be reported to the Union's Court of Accounts.

[Tavares] Are you for the parliamentary or the presidential system of government?

[Oliveira] I will vote for the parliamentary system of government because I believe a president's image rapidly wears out in a country that needs changes and rapid transformation. The parliamentary system of government has better chances for overcoming crises. Yet as the president of the Chamber, I will adopt a neutral position.

[Tavares] Is Congress ready for the parliamentary system of government?

[Oliveira] I believe Congress is duly prepared to exercise that power, especially because more than 99 percent of congressmen are serious, hardworking, and righteous. We simply have to improve our power structure.

[Tavares] Don't old congressional mistakes, such as opportunism, nepotism, lack of quorum [pianismo], and repeated absenteeism disqualify congressmen?

[Oliveira] Those are isolated facts. You cannot pass judgement on an institution based on the mistakes of 2, 3, 4, or 5 percent of its members. In that case you would have to judge the medical class based on the mistakes made by one doctor. Congress as a whole is good.

[Tavares] Do you support the constitutional amendment submitted by the Sao Paulo bloc, which modifies the criteria for representation in the Chamber of Deputies?

[Oliveira] I think the matter should be studied. I believe there is a substantial imbalance between the population, the states, and the regions. Giving more political power to poorer regions was a method for compensating for that imbalance. I therefore believe that if we do not make a careful study, we could increase the imbalance between rich and poor regions even further.

[Tavares] Would you agree to increasing the number of seats for southern states, provided those of northern states are not reduced?

[Oliveira] I might, but I also believe that a Chamber of Deputies with 503 members is quite big. We should find a way to compensate those states that do not have enough seats, but without increasing too much the number of representatives. Northern states, however, cannot have a low number of seats, because they—who have no economic power—can lose the little political power they have.

[Tavares] Yet you, Senator Lucena, and the leaders of the main parties in Congress are all from the northeastern region. Aren't northeastern people properly represented?

[Oliveira] No, they are properly represented, but in major issues the important thing is the number of votes. It would be very dangerous if three states—Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, and Minas Gerais—dominated the Chamber.

[Tavares] During your campaign you contended that as the country's economic power is to be found in the south, political power should be vested in the Northeast. Does that assertion still hold good?

[Oliveira] I believe so, but I would not make such a hard and fast distinction now as I did at that time. Perhaps the words I used were too harsh. However, I do think that we need to achieve a balance. The South and the Southeast wield tremendous economic power. Thus we need to have some sort of political force that will at least redress the balance.

[Tavares] What piece of advice would you give to President Itamar Franco?

[Oliveira] I would tell him to continue along the same lines, addressing himself to the problems of inflation, recession, and especially dire poverty, which currently affects 60 million Brazilians. I would advise him to continue giving top priority to social problems.

[Tavares] President Franco will travel to Bolivia on 17 February, and you will step into his shoes for the first time. What will be your style of governing?

[Oliveira] I will assume office as the president of the Chamber of Deputies, and I will consider it only as part of my routine duties. If a serious or difficult matter crops up, I will consult the president wherever he is at that moment, because he holds the office of president. He is the chief executive. And when he comes back, he will have to assume responsibility for that act.

[Tavares] Rumor has it that you will go to your hometown, Serra Talhada, in a presidential Boeing...

[Oliveira] That is only a slander against a native of the Northeast. I have no intentions of going to Serra Talhada in my capacity as acting president. I was acting president of the Chamber of Deputies on a score of occasions, and never once commanded the FAB [Brazilian Air Force] to provide me with a plane. I will visit Serra Talhada at my leisure, as a son of Serra Talhada.

[Tavares] Do you consider yourself a national politician?

[Oliveira] I would say I am more a regional politician than a national one. Maybe now that I am president of

the Chamber of Deputies and vice president of the Republic, I will become one, but that will not change my personality. I will always be an unpretentious person. I have dismissed my bodyguards at the Chamber of Deputies. I will be on my own. I got rid of my large car, the official one. I will get around in my small car...

[Tavares] But you came here in a Chevrolet Opala bearing an official licence plate...

[Oliveira] That is precisely the Opala I am going to drive. I got rid of the Ford Galaxie, the Opala, and four bodyguards. I will get by with only one bodyguard.

[Tavares] You have a way of conducting political affairs that could be confused for political opportunism [fisiologismo]...

[Oliveira] I flatly deny every accusation to that effect. I will ask my opponents, Ibsen Pinheiro, former president of the Chamber of Deputies, and Deputy Waldir Pires [Democratic Workers' Party], who are reliable people and worked with me on the board for two years, to bear witness to my conduct. You are mistaking the discharge of one's duties for a bad reputation.

[Tavares] Do you regret having shelved the request to impeach former President Jose Sarney?

[Oliveira] No, I do not. I have a clear conscience about that. I took the project home; I studied it for more than 15 days; and I concluded that the charges were totally groundless. It was said that Sarney was responsible for inflation...[pauses] I do not regret it in the least. Besides, the Federal Supreme Court then wholly endorsed my decision. And one does not question a Supreme Court ruling; one just abides by it.

[Tavares] I would like to ask you a personal question. Do you have problems, as a politician, for being a stammerer?

[Oliveira] As a matter of fact, yes. I have always been somewhat embarrassed by that, but I try very hard not to attach too much importance to it. I am currently undergoing a new treatment, and I believe that in time I will become more self-confident. Now, if I had a moral shortcoming, then I would be much more embarrassed.

Ambassador Dismissed After Making Accusations

PY0602173293 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Text] The government will dismiss designated Brazilian Ambassador to Venezuela Raul Fernando Leite Ribeiro, who brought corruption charges against the Armed Forces, Federal Police, and the Funai [National Indian Foundation].

Leite Ribeiro will no longer be the Brazilian ambassador to Venezuela. On 8 February, at a meeting to be held with Foreign Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso, President Itamar Franco will reconsider the name of Raul Fernando Leite Ribeiro, designated ambassador to Venezuela.

In a note released to the press, the Brazilian Government states that remarks attributed to Ambassador Raul Fernando Leite Ribeiro at the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on 3 February do not reflect Itamaraty's position.

The ambassador said Funai and Federal Police officials are involved in incidents of corruption on the border with Venezuela. Leite Ribeiro added that the two countries' armed forces are interested in keeping tension alive in that region.

Venezuelan Ambassador to Brazil Sebastian Alegrett [name as received] has asked Itamaraty to confirm or deny the remarks made by Ambassador Leite Ribeiro. The answer given was that the remarks made by the Brazilian ambassador do not reflect the Brazilian Government's thinking, stressing the friendly and fraternal relations existing between the two countries.

Police To Fine Portuguese in Brazil Illegally

PY0502171293 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] Federal Police Director General Amauri Gaudino has reported that Portuguese who come to Brazil on a tourist visa and work here without special authorization will pay a daily fine equivalent to 10 reference fiscal units and will be expelled from the country. Gaudino has already transmitted these orders to all Federal Police superintendencies.

Justice Minister Mauricio Correa said he is waiting for Brazilian Ambassador to Portugal Jose Aparecido de Oliveira's arrival to evaluate the situation between the two countries. Minister Correa added that the measures being implemented by Brazil should not be deemed retaliatory. He pointed out that Brazil is using the reciprocity principle in its treatment of Portuguese citizens who arrive in Brazil.

In Portugal, Ambassador Oliveira met with Portuguese Foreign Minister Durao Barroso, who said that Portugal is implementing domestic migration rules, in compliance with the commitments made to the EC.

Chile

Pinochet 'Concern' Over Pardons Confirmed

PY0802001293 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 24 Jan 93 pp C1, C8

[Excerpts] The government confirmed yesterday that last December the Army commander in chief sent a letter to the president of the Republic expressing his concern over the use of the presidential prerogative in pardoning terrorist militants.

The next day the president answered General Augusto Pinochet's letter with another personal letter reaffirming

his constitutional prerogative, and assuring the commander in chief that he was making use of his prerogative in a conscientious manner and after an in-depth analysis of each case.

This was confirmed yesterday by Enrique Correa, minister secretary general of government, when asked about it at La Moneda Palace.

"It is true. Before Christmas the president received a letter signed by the Army commander in chief. The president answered the letter the next day," the government spokesman said.

Correa refused to give details of the letters' contents, saying the two letters were private.

Unofficial sources said a few days ago that Gen. Pinochet had sent the letter to the president to convey to him the Army's concern over the pardon or reduction in sentence of individuals who had participated in terrorist actions resulting in deaths.

The letter was sent after it was learned that the individuals involved in the assassination of General Carol Urzua and Colonel Roger Vergara had travelled to Belgium and Finland following President Patricio Aylwin's decision to commute their sentences of life in prison to exile. [passage omitted]

Minister Correa was asked yesteday if Gen. Pinochet's letter could modify the criteria for application of the presidential prerogative, but Correa answered that "the president resolves whether he will use that prerogative on his own conscience and on a case by case basis, and no one can interfere with that decision, as this is established by the Constitution." [passage omitted]

Interview With Arms Manufacturer Cardoen

PY0602193593 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 31 Jan 93 pp D15-D16

[Interview with Chilean businessman Carlos Cardoen, president and owner of Cardoen Company, by Paulo Ramirez C. at Cardoen's "general headquarters"; date not given]

[Text] In one decade this previously unkown engineer, who obtained his doctorate in mineralogy in Utah in the United States, has become the main arms manufacturer in Latin America.

His general headquarters are located in a huge white house on Lyon Avenue. He sits at a table in a meeting room dominated by a copy of David's "The Crowning of Napoleon." The other walls are covered with original documents of Chilean history.

He is sporting a slicked-down hairstyle—"it gets very untidy when it grows"—a green khaki Hugo Boss-style suit, a tie with multiform designs, and a white shirt with cufflinks.

Carlos Cardoen Cornejo (married, seven children) sits back in his chair, puts his hands together, and waits resignedly to talk about arms trafficking, his connections with Iraq, the assassination of British Journalist Jonathan Moyle....

He is calm, self-assured, with his mind set on his current adversary: the United States.

He started manufacturing explosives for mining. In 1978, he turned to arms manufacturing. Later he diversified his activities: steel, aluminum, hotels, fruits, forests, airplane leasing, jeans, real estate, international trade, an editorial house.... He has been a philosopher (together with Gonzalo Alcaino, he published the book "Time and Happiness") and a philanthropist in his native land of Colchagua.

Today he has businesses in the United States, Venezuela, Cuba, and incipient business activities in Romania.

The bombs he manufactures have been tested in Chile and in real wars in Iraq and Ethiopia, among other countries.

[Ramirez] The United States—its government leaders and officials, and the U.S. media—seem to believe you are a just an arms dealer....

[Cardoen] The Bush administration did everything in its power to discredit me. It has tried to make me appear as an isolated element in the efforts the Western world put forward during the Iraqi-Iranian war to send supplies to Iraq, which was at the time the champion of the West, as it was trying to halt Iranian fundamentalism. I believe all of us made the mistake of having armed Saddam Husayn, who later changed history and attacked Kuwait.

[Ramirez] However, was it not beneficial for the West to defend Iraq against Iran?

[Cardoen] Perhaps, but it also allowed Sadddam Husayn to obtain a war power that later allowed him to attack and invade Kuwait. No one likes having helped him do this. An historic mistake was made. These decisions are not made by an arms manufacturer, though, but by governments, and the Chilean Government authorized us to sell arms to Iraq, just as did the EEC and, in particular, the United States.

[Ramirez] How would you describe an arms manufacturer?

[Cardoen] Someone who purchases arms in one place and sells them in another. The term has a tremendously negative connotation, because it is believed that these business transactions are of a dubious nature.

[Ramirez] Have none of your own been of this nature?

[Cardoen] No, they have not. The manufacturing of arms, which is what I did in the past, is a completely clear and open activity. They are produced by applying engineering and utilizing military materials, and their sale is authorized by governments.

[Ramirez] What kind of weapons did you sell to Iraq?

[Cardoen] General type bombs and cluster bombs.

[Ramirez] Were you not also associated with the Iraqi Government?

[Cardoen] What we did was to supply engineering know-how, and some machinery and equipment used in Chilean technology.

[Ramirez] Did you have any projects that were thwarted when the war broke out?

[Cardoen] Of course. We were rebuilding the Iraqi civilian and defense industries, and had important contracts. Many Chilean engineers and technicians were working in Iraq.

[Ramirez] Could you describe these projects?

[Cardoen] There was a project for manufacturing aviation bomb fuses, and another for manufacturing electronic equipment for both civilian and military use.

[Ramirez] Were these factories destroyed during the war?

[Cardoen] I understand they were partially destroyed.

[Ramirez] How much did you lose there?

[Cardoen] Several million dollars worth, in money that was not received and for unpaid work.

[Ramirez] Which means that Saddam Husayn owes you money?

[Cardoen] That is correct. I estimate the debt stands at about $30 million.

[Ramirez] Don't you manufacture weapons any more?

[Cardoen] No. We have not done so for years.

[Ramirez] Won't you ever do it again?

[Cardoen] I did not say that. If Chile ever finds itself under the same pressure it had to confront in 1978—this was the factor that led me to produce arms—I will be the first one willing to again manufacture weapons.

[Ramirez] Why did you stop manufacturing arms now, at the end of the cold war, at a time when an outbreak of local conflicts was expected?

[Cardoen] For several reasons. I began to produce weapons because state-run manufacturers could not properly react at that time. However, in times of peace it is possible to organize things better. I transferred—and am still transferring—a substantial part of that technology to state organs that can use it.

[Ramirez] To whom is that technlogy specifically being transferred?

[Cardoen] Basically to the institutions that produce items for the Air Force, such as Enaer [National Aeronautical Enterprise]. We want our technology to be available, in the hands of the state, in case it is needed in the future, and in case we are no longer here.

[Ramirez] What has been the Government reaction?

[Cardoen] I think it has been fine, as they are receiving a technology they do not have.

[Ramirez] How much does it amount to?

[Cardoen] Several tens of millions of dollars, but the price will be lower than the nominal value.

[Ramirez] All this because of U.S. pressure?

[Cardoen] You can resist pressure to a certain point. Going beyond that point would be not only unreasonable, but would also involve confronting a country that uses intervention and abduction as a natural course of action.

[Ramirez] You said in 1990 that you never sold arms to an enemy of the United States. Was that a rule for your enterprise?

[Cardoen] I have always maintained very close links with the United States. I studied there, and I have a PhD from the University of Utah. Two of my children were born in the United States. I have links with U.S. enterprises, and have a lot of U.S. friends. Those ties made us select carefully the countries to whom we sold our products, in order to avoid affecting U.S. interests.

[Ramirez] Are you now an enemy of the United States?

[Cardoen] I don't think so. It is a typical case of misinformed officials, especially fiscal sector officials, who want to appear as great hunters of criminals in order to advance in their careers. Yet this time they are not dealing with a criminal, but with an entrepreneur who has done everything legally. I did not violate Chilean law, and if I did violate U.S. law, I would like to know how I did it. At this point there are no charges against me.

[Ramirez] When was the beginning of this harassment that you are reporting?

[Cardoen] A bit more than two years ago, when Saddam Husayn changed from a good friend into an enemy. At that time they began looking for a scapegoat, to explain to the public why Saddam had such an arsenal. But they should buy a mirror and look at themselves, as it is the Americans who armed Saddam Husayn.

[Ramirez] Did Bush promote this offensive against you?

[Cardoen] Undoubtedly. His administration was marked by violent, uncontrolled actions, with the "cowboy" [preceding word in English] policy of shooting first, and then asking. The United States has acted as a commercial terrorist.

[Ramirez] Will that change with Clinton?

[Cardoen] I hope common sense will prevail, and I have confidence in U.S. courts, whose actions were obstructed by the Bush administration. I hope the new administration will make it possible for us to see things from a fair and equitable viewpoint.

[Ramirez] You say court action has been obstructed....

[Cardoen] Yes. For example, we built the Bell-Cardoen helicopter under an agreement with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), a U.S. federal organization. We paid the FAA to inspect the conversions made to the helicopter. The FAA not only approved them, but when the helicopter was ready and we tested it in Chile, the FAA asked us to take it to the United States to submit it to a series of tests. The helicopter passed the tests and was approved. After that it was suddenly and illegally confiscated. I consider this piracy, because it was confiscated without giving any reason, only because the helicopter could be exported to Iraq.

[Ramirez] And was it to have been exported to Iraq?

[Cardoen] It could have been exported to the moon, but that does not mean that was our intention, nor that we wanted to export them without the authorization of the companies that manufacture the main parts, which are U.S. companies.

[Ramirez] What is, then, the true reason?

[Cardoen] It was merely an excuse to halt Chilean technological development. It is an effort by a powerful country to keep us on our knees, selling raw materials and cheap services.

[Ramirez] Do you believe you will recover the helicopter?

[Cardoen] I do not believe anything. I am simply fighting a legal battle, and spending every last penny of my resources to recover it. What is at stake today is no longer the helicopter, but the dignity of Chileans, the right we have to be able to produce sophisticated equipment and offer to international markets our experience, our skills, and our technology.

[Ramirez] You have asked for the support of the Chilean Government in this fight. Have you received it?

[Cardoen] The government has maintained a very good attitude and not public, but effective support. I am grateful for the government's actions, but I think it is time for the government to stand up and talk to the United States; it is time to stop fearing the wolf. It brings up the famous free trade treaty, pushing it forward in all cases; the government has failed to maintain pressure in the poisoned grapes case because it feared the free trade treaty could be compromised. The issue of the helicopter, my properties, that of the pharmaceutical products.... Public opinion and officials are continuously suffering extortion, with offers and illusions regarding a free trade treaty.

[Ramirez] Has Chile fallen into this game? Has it been accommodating this extortion?

[Cardoen] Chile is moving cautiously before the United States and the new order. I feel, therefore, that it is rather difficult for the government to adopt a more committed position. But if we do not adopt this, we are as a country going to allow the United States to meddle in a permanent and abusive manner in our commercial decisions.

Deals with Cuba

Cardoen is worried these days, and has blamed this on new U.S. threats:

For having business deals with Cuba, the United States has attacked me from all sides. The Chilean Embassy in Washington has been asked to intervene in preventing me from doing business with Cuba.

[Ramirez] Why?

[Cardoen] Surely because it is against U.S. interests. It does not like the presence in Cuba of a large number of Chilean businessmen who are looking for new opportunities and support from the government.

[Ramirez] Isn't this U.S. suspicion related to the need experienced by many former socialist countries to sell their weapons? Isn't the United States condidering you a potential "dealer?" [preceding word in English]

[Cardoen] Well, it would be very easy for U.S. officials to find out whether I was doing anything related to weapons, which I have not done in Cuba—and I would not do it, either, because it would place in conflict my position before my government. The Chilean Government must first give me authorization to sell weapons.

[Ramirez] But perhaps the United States thinks you are selling to other countries the Soviet weapons they have....

[Cardoen] No.... It is not within my line of work, and has not been my intention.

Confiscated Goods

[Ramirez] Have the goods confiscated in Miami been returned to you?

[Cardoen] No. That pressure has been maintained. It is a direct government action to prevent our development in Cuba.

[Ramirez] Ah, it is because of Cuba....

[Cardoen] Yes. But there is more. The United States has contacted our embassy in Washington. We have been

subjected to commercial pressure to prevent us from purchasing an important U.S. brand of jeans, which we had already purchased, but have been forced to sell back. I was forced to sell my shares in a chemical industry, of which I have been a partner for more than 20 years; I had to return the licence for Bell helicopters I was handling in Chile; I had to give up my shares in a U.S. company which I helped to create with a group of friends in Salt Lake City, which is Mining Services International. I had to sell it because of U.S. Government pressure.

[Ramirez] How have they done that?

[Cardoen] Very easy: They go to the company's board, and tell them: "Gentlemen, if you do not force this partner to sell his shares, we are going to impose this and that measure against you."

[Ramirez] Who are these people who go there?

[Cardoen] They are from the State Department. In general, they are from the U.S. Government.

[Ramirez] But you have adopted judicial action...

[Cardoen] Yes, but the U.S. Government has adopted administrative measures to prevent the return of my goods. In the case of the helicopter, which should have already been returned to me according to a decision by a judge, an administrative measure was implemented, an "executive order" [preceding two words in English] acting above the court decision. Concerning properties in Miami, we were told that they would not be returned until an investigation had been concluded. I am sure that for daring to take action against the U.S. Government I am going to pay a heavy price. I know I am going against the greatest power in the world, but to me it is also pleasing to learn that these people are worried about what I do.

[Ramirez] Did you get to know Jonathan Moyle personally?

[Cardoen] No... (and without waiting for anything more than the mere mention of the British reporter murdered in Santiago in 1989, Cardoen said:)

This is a fairy tale created by the bad Chilean press. I never met; I never saw Mr. Moyle. It has been said that he came to investigate the making of our helicopter, which seems strange to us, as he never came to the company, and the information was freely available. The helicopter was even shown at the International Aerospace Fair, and Mr. Moyle never went to see it. It seems to us a sinister and ill intention to try to link Moyle with our company.

[Ramirez] What relationship did you have with the Matrix Churchill company, which was investigated by the British Parliament for its alleged illegal shipment of arms to Iraq, through you, during the Persian Gulf war?

[Cardoen] That firm belonged in its majority to the Government of Iraq. When we signed agreements on production and industrial development in Iraq, there was a condition that we had to buy the machinery and certain types of tools made by Matrix Churchill, a condition that seemed to us legitimate. We purchased machinery and equipment from Matrix Churchill, and exported them from England to Iraq. There is even some equipment left in Iraq that we were never paid for. We have a lawsuit pending against Matrix Churchill, as this company wants to get money from us for machinery that is in Iraq for which we never got paid. But what we never were involved in are the alleged triangulations that were investigated by Parliament. The clearest signal of the legality of our relations with that firm is the fact that after the investigations they were all absolved.

[Ramirez] Another accusation against you was made in a book by a former Israeli secret agent, saying that you sold arms to Iraq during the Persian Gulf war, and that this led to a meeting in Santiago between you and then CIA chief Robert Gates.

[Cardoen] That accusation is like a mixed salad which even those who wrote it do not understand. [as published]

[Ramirez] ...? [as published]

[Cardoen] It is a stupid accusation, it is completely false. I did not sell arms during the Persian Gulf war. I did sell them during the war between Iraq and Iran. Furthermore, I sent a letter to the U.S. Senate saying that I never met with Mr. Gates.

[Ramirez] When was that?

[Cardoen] During the hearings [preceding word in English] in Congress for his approval as CIA director, when he was questioned about the war.

[Ramirez] The question is, why is an individual accused of so many things all the time....

[Cardoen] I believe this is a characteristic of the new order. There is commercial terrorism here. It is the same as putting a bomb in your car, or a package of cocaine in your pocket, when someone is going to check you. This is terrorism. I believe I am a victim because I excelled in doing things that it was assumed only the powerful could do. I represent for the United States the greatest threat they have: the intelligence of developing countries. The weapons I made I sold in competition with the United States, and I will always step on their sore spots, and intend to continue doing so.

[Ramirez] One year ago there was talk that your extradition to the United States was imminent. Can you enter and leave that country whenever you want?

[Cardoen] I can enter when I want to.... I do not know if I could leave.

[Ramirez] Have you gone there lately?

[Cardoen] I have not... and I would not. These people are using all kinds of tricks to pressure me illegally, therefore I

do not feel safe in traveling to the United States, especially when the U.S. Government has legalized kidnapping.

[Ramirez] Is this the result of making weapons, or do you think the same thing would have happened to you had you been making computer chips?

[Cardoen] Part of the reason is for making weapons. They control half the world politically by selling weapons. They kept Chile under control for many years. In Brazil they closed the armored vehicle industry, the rocket industry named Bibras, the airplane company Embraer [Brazilian Aeronautics Company]. What happened to the Argentine Condor project, in agreement with the Germans? It was closed after a direct agreement between Bush and Menem. And in Chile there is this half mad Colchagua cowboy left, who is going around doing the things he wants to do. So they attacked one who seemed to them to be the weaker, but they were wrong.

Attorney Denies Agreement With U.S.

PY0602170293 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 2 Feb 93 p C3

[Text] American courts reportedly are engaged in critical negotiations with the Chilean arms dealer Carlos Cardoen, who currently is facing charges on the the alleged illegal purchase of components to manufacture cluster bombs.

This information was provided in an article published yesterday in the THE LOS ANGELES TIMES newspaper.

According to the newspaper, the agreement would entail some sort of pardon for Cardoen in exchange for his testimony against the American company Teledyne Inc., a major supplier for the U.S. Defense Department.

Here in Chile, Carlos Cardoen's attorney, Juan Pablo Hermosilla, flatly denied this information. He told EL MERCURIO newspaper that "it is not true that we have reached an agreement with U.S. courts."

He stated that there is an inquiry under way and that the Miami District Attorney's Office is currently presenting evidence to the grand jury, but he reiterated there is no agreement in the offering.

"That is a lie," he said. However, Hermosilla could neither deny nor confirm that American district attorneys met secretly with Cardoen in Jamaica last year, as THE LOS ANGELES TIMES reports in the aforementioned article.

Hermosilla explained that Cardoen has not been indicted yet, and that American courts are conducting an inquiry to decide whether a crime was committed by selling weapons.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Government has impounded a Bell-Cardoen helicopter, real estate in Miami, and several million dollars in cash, all of which belong to Cardoen Companies, until the case is cleared up.

In an interview with EL MERCURIO, Cardoen said that "I can enter the United States by all possible means, but I do not know whether I will be able to leave the country," and added that "naturally, I would not travel to that country."

Cardoen, who has sold millions of dollars in weapons to Middle East countries from his headquarters in Santiago and Miami, contends that he did so with the approval of the U.S. Government. This contention was ratified by his lawyer yesterday.

According to THE LOS ANGELES TIMES, the problem arose when Cardoen bought 100 metric tons of zirconium suitable for use in ammunition manufacturing from Teledyne Inc. between 1984 and 1988, and subsequently used it to assemble bombs that ended up in Saddam Husayn's arsenal.

Zirconium enhances the heat and explosive power of charges, thus enabling it to penetrate armored tanks and other vehicles.

The operation is described as a sophisticated plan of operations and fabricated companies that made it possible for Cardoen to manufacture hundreds of cluster bombs for Iraq. It is estimated that $200 million worth of bombs were sold to that country.

Teledyne Inc. states that the sales were perfectly legal, and it did not know Cardoen used the zirconium to manufacture bombs.

Export licenses indicated that the licensee was going to use the zirconium as an ignition agent in explosive mixtures for mining purposes.

The settlement provisions would include—according to what the aforementioned American newspaper speculates—the forfeiture of millions of dollars in frozen assets, which Cardoen has in the United States, in return for prosecutors' forbearance from demanding that Cardoen be sentenced to any form of imprisonment.

Plants 'Dormant,' Still Operational

PY0502225093 Santiago LA NACION in Spanish 1 Feb 93 p 8

[Article by special correspondent Eduardo Rubilar]

[Text] Iquique—Most of Cardoen Industries' military production is based in Iquique. According to known records, it has sold its products to the Chilean Armed Forces, Iraq, and the Ethiopian Government. There are four plants which in the 1980's produced tanks, air bombs, multipurpose bombs, and cluster bombs. Today the Armed Forces do not want these installations to be dismantled completely. Their very existence, it is said, signifies an act of "deterrence" of the intentions that could exist among bordering nations. Also, in each of the three structures which have been erected—although the process has already been completely shut down—everything is intact for a continuation of production.

One of the plants has been completely dismantled. It is the one which used to manufacture Mowag tanks for the Army, tanks manufactured by Cardoen under Swiss license, and which the Famae [Army Ordnance] later continued building. It was a large shed located between Oficina Salitrera Victoria and Oficina Salitrera Mapocho Streets, within the free zone, but today it no longer exists. The roof and the walls have been dismantled, and now the property is awaiting conversion to a roadway between the two streets bordered by, according to industrial plans, 24 storage and sales departments for commercial companies from the free zone. It will be the "Salitrera Victoria Boulevard."

The three other plants, though with a little bit of dust and rust, are completely set up, although in a "dormant state," and ready to produce at any moment. It would be enough to open the doors and start the engines, and production would resume. Have bombs been produced there during this government? Cardoen categorically denies it, and a very quick inspection carried out by LA NACION has not found any evidence of any production.

What will happen in the future? During the months to come Metalnor, the company that belongs to the holding of Cardoen companies and which built the complex, will decide whether it will keep it, or whether it will be transferred to some other Armed Forces organization. We should not be surprised, then, if Famae, the Army Ordnance, decides to keep it and to acquire the methods and knowhow.

A team of guards and seven or eight people headed by a supervisor are in charge of maintaining the installations. They are responsible for painting once every two years, mopping the floors, running the hydraulic engines, and preventing the salty fog from corroding the metals.

Of the three plants, the so-called No. 2 is located in the center of the free zone, next to the plant that was used for making armored vehicles. That plant can be used at any time to make the MK-82, MK-83, and MK-84 general purpose bombs, which weigh from 250 to 1,000 kg each, according to the model. The bombs were the first of a series of Cardoen military explosives made starting in 1982. Many of them were shipped to Iraq, and others stored in the hangars of the Chilean Air Force at a rate of about 500 per month, occupying about 100 people full time. Cardoen Industries said that a decision to dismantle this plant is under evaluation.

Alto Hospicio is located about 10 km from Iquique. This place recorded its name in history in 1990 when the relatives of missing people and judges searched unsuccessfully for the bodies of people who were executed by the military government. It is a very isolated place, where a plant for making explosives finds itself in its natural habitat. This plant was the Los Condores complex, which from 1929 to 1970 was the home of the 1st Aviation Group of the Air Force, which was transferred to the Diego Aracena Airport.

This is Plant No. 3, where the "cluster bombs" made up of 240 bomblets [preceding word in English] were made. These are the small bombs that can destroy several square kilometers. There is a main white metal door, which is the only way to enter the plant as a well-built fence surrounds the plant.

From the outside the plant looks like a normal industrial installation, with the Chilean flag on top of the building. But the mushroom of the explosion that occurred accidentally on 25 January 1986, involving more than 400 bomblets, rose beyond the heights of the flag. The accident vaporized several of the 29 workers working in the "minor assembly" building, which disappeared. It was the worst tragedy and threatened the entire Cardoen business.

On the right side of the plant there is a solid concrete installation which appears to be the central office, while on the left side there are lighter construction facilities. The buildings are in precise order. They were planned as independent units, leaving a security corridor in the center for the transportation of materials.

Plant No. 5 is the third still operational installation maintained by Cardoen. It is located a few kilometers up the hill from Plant No. 3 in an area called Los Corrales, at the end of an old mule trail that was closed, and covers several hectares. During the times of highest production many MK-83 and MK-84 bombs were assembled there in just a few hours.

What will be the future of all this? With the applied technology and facilities designed to assemble explosives of high destructive power, the military government was able to become relatively independent of the supply of some weapons, instruments of a policy carried out to its ultimate consequences. Now, instead of their complete destruction, the point is whether the majority of Chileans will decide who is to take over control of the plants, their construction, their use, and to whom they will be sold.

'Terrorist Coordinating Board' Members Arrested

PY0602175993 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 27 Jan 93 p 11

[Text] Personnel from the squad in charge of investigating larcenies have arrested four people on robbery and terrorism charges.

The names of the people held in custody are: Jose Luis Galarce, Gloria Soto, Daniel Torres, and Jose Saldias, all of whom are alleged members of the so-called "Terrorist Coordinating Board."

The police pointed out that the accused are charged with four counts of robbery by intimidation that took place [in Santiago] in May 1990. The robberies were perpetrated at the Bhif Bank, located at 127 Serafin Zamora Street in La Florida district; a shoe factory, located at 01053 Departmental Avenue; the emergency bureau of

the San Miguel Municipality; and a children's clothes manufacturing company, located in San Miguel district.

Investigative Police also provided incriminating evidence against them that proves they were responsible for attacks on several Mormon churches, school takeovers, incendiary attacks, the planting of explosive devices at a high-voltage tower located on the corner of La Feria Avenue and Carlos Marx Street [Santiago] in November 1991, and other crimes contemplated in the Law on Terrorist Actions.

Chilean Envoy Elected Head of UN Council

PY0602012293 Santiago LA NACION in Spanish 27 Jan 93 p 12

[Article by Mariluz Correa]

[Excerpts] Santiago—Chilean Ambassador to the United Nations Juan Somavia yesterday was unanimously elected president of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, which is the United Nation's top organ for debating issues dealing with development and living standards. [passage omitted]

This is not the only post that Ambassador Somavia will hold this year, because in the near future he will assume the presidency of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries, Grulac, and will coordinate the Group of Rio at the United Nations, taking into account that Chile is now in charge of the pro tempore secretariat of the Group.

Company To Operate Point-to-Point Data System

PY0602122993 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Excerpt] The Chilean Telephone Company [CTC] will put in operation its first point-to-point satellite data system. This data system will be operated through the CTC's OSAT [not further identified] system, which comprises earth stations with short-range parabolic antennas with low-energy-consumption parabolic antennas that are easily transported. [passage omitted]

Air Force Takes Delivery of U.S. Helicopters

PY0602222493 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 27 Jan 93 p C6

[Excerpts] Six Bell UH-1H helicopters, which were purchased by the Chilean Air Force for in-house activities, arrived yesterday in Chile. The Air Force now has 16 Bell UH-1H helicopters.

The helicopters were purchased in the United States as part of a batch of 18 units to be added to the 9th Aviation Group, which will be reactivated at Los Cerrillos Airport in March 1993. Each helicopter costs approximately $700,000.

The reactivation of the 9th Aviation Group is part of the undertakings planned by the Armed Forces for this calendar year. [passage omitted]

Ricardo Klima, commander of the 9th Air Group, acknowledged receipt of the helicopters at the main terminal of the airport. He stated that the helicopters are in perfect condition for undertaking missions ordered by the Search and Rescue Service, or SAR, as of tomorrow. He added that the helicopters can be adapted for use in warfare. [passage omitted]

The Air Force has reported that one of the main reasons behind this purchase is to strengthen SAR rescue and support capabilities.

Depending on what type of missions they are assigned, Bell UH-1H helicopters can transport commandos, paratroopers, tactical divers, and materiel in support of ground operations. [passage omitted]

Colombia

State of 'Internal Disturbance' Prolonged

PA0502213693 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1712 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Excerpt] Santa Fe de Bogota, 5 Feb (EFE)—On 5 February, the Colombian Government announced that the state of "internal disturbance," which was established in November 1992, will be prolonged until May 1993.

The government also announced new rewards for people who help in the arrest of drug "kingpins." The new rewards range from sentence reduction to a full pardon.

Government Minister Fabio Villegas asserted that the state of "internal disturbance," which was decreed on 8 November to stop drug traffickers and guerrilla attacks, will be prolonged 90 days because the situation that prevailed three months ago "still continues to exist in the country."

Villegas explained that "in general, the situation that prompted the government to issue the initial decree still prevails, despite government and public efforts in the struggle against guerrillas and drug traffickers."

Now, however, "there are new threats, especially by the drug terrorists. They are a serious risk to the country's institutional stability because they cannot be controlled through the traditional police mechanisms," the minister stated.

Villegas announced that, based on the exceptional measures, the Colombian Executive Branch authorized the Office of the Prosecutor General of the Republic to increase the rewards for people who cooperate with officials by reducing their sentences. [passage omitted]

Decree Grants Incentives for Informants

PA0502213993 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1630 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] On 5 February the Council of Ministers issued a decree which provides incentives ranging from reduced sentences to a total pardon for criminals who blow the whistle on or give leads to the whereabouts of drug traffickers and guerrillas. The measures do not have rigid application mechanisms. The better the data the criminal supplies, the more his file will be cleared of charges. Many criminals currently in jail could end up free, with full guarantees from the government through the witness protection program. Here is what Justice Minister Andres Gonzalez said:

[Begin recording] [Gonzalez] There could be very big benefits if the level of cooperation is high.

[Reporter] Could this mean a total pardon?

[Gonzalez] Proceedings against individuals could be totally suspended, their sentences could be suspended, or they could be excused from serving their sentences. The measure can vary, it can be adjusted in proportion to the extent of the cooperation.

[Fernando Brito, director of Administrative Department of Security] This is a measure that has been implemented in other nations. In Italy, for example, this measure has allowed the dismantling of La Cosa Nostra, a previously unpenetrable organization that had existed for over 30 years. [end recording]

Accusations by criminals against criminals will be evaluated by the Attorney General's Office. The truthfulness of accusations will be verified, and the extent of the individual's sentence reduction will be determined. This measure can reach scopes never before imagined. The government has placed its hopes on this measure as the best mechanism to dismantle organized crime in Colombia. It is expected that this measure will soon be implemented with criminals who are already in the hands of the authorities, for example Pablo Escobar's lieutenants.

'Any Amount of Money' Offered for Escobar

PA0702033993 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0030 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Report by Juan Roberto Vargas]

[Text] On 6 February the government announced it is ready to give any amount of money as a reward to those reporting the whereabouts of the country's most notorious criminals, such as Pablo Escobar and Manuel Perez, leader of the ELN [Army of National Liberation]. The government believes that this is the most effective way to capture the aforementioned criminals. Governors will also be able to offer rewards for wanted criminals.

The capture of approximately 25 hired assassins working for drug trafficking organizations and at least 130 guerrillas, which was made possible by information supplied from citizens, is the strongest weapon the government possesses. This is why the government will not establish limits on the rewards offered to those reporting on the whereabouts of guerrillas and drug traffickers.

[Begin Ricardo Santamaria, presidential adviser for national security, recording] This procedure will be expanded as it is needed. [end recording]

In addition to the citizens' cooperation, starting next week, the government and governors will coordinate their efforts under the new decrees of internal disturbance. The guerrillas who surrender to authorities will be protected and kept in military garrisons. Additionally, special commissions of the Prosecutor General's Office will be deployed to the regions where subversive turn themselves in.

[Begin Santamaria recording] We are trying to make this a consistent policy of the administration since so many persons are turning themselves in.

As for the government, we would be ready to guarantee the rights of these people so that they can rejoin civilian life and end their criminal activities. [end recording]

In the next few days, the government will implement new mechanisms to facilitate the surrender of guerrillas with more state of internal disturbance decrees.

Authorities Arrest Top Coastal Cartel Members

PA0502150193 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 30 Jan 93 p 12A

[Text] Operations launched on 26 January by elite police corps in three Colombian cities to dismantle money laundering and cocaine distributing networks of the so-called Coastal Cartel have been moved to Venezuela.

Combined elite police units and members of Venezuela's Judicial Technical Police (PTJ) on 29 January searched in that country for an important link in the organization controlled by Humberto Orlandez Gamboa, also known as "Caracol," who was captured on 26 January in Barranquilla.

The operations, which continued on 29 January in Barranquilla, Santa Fe de Bogota, and Bucaramanga, were conducted based on an investigation initiated six months ago by the Judicial Police and Investigations Directorate (Dijin) on the existence of the aforementioned organization in the northern and northeastern part of the country.

During the operations conducted on 26 January in Barranquilla, "Caracol," Roger Eliecer Pombo Ortega, alias "Flaco," Jorge Fajardo, and Carlos Nunez Bermudez were arrested. The arrests were made in Mediterranee, Lituannia, and Pontewecho buildings.

One day later at 1700 on 27 January, elite police units raided a residence on 23d Street between 13th and Caracas Avenues in Santa Fe de Bogota, where Ernesto Tavera, second in command of the Coastal Cartel, was arrested.

Authorities found in his possession three Uzi submachine guns, two revolvers, and three pistols. Authorities also seized three vehicles and took Tavera to the Dijin prison. Police sources say Tavera ran the organization's business in Santa Fe de Bogota and Bucaramanga.

On 29 January, Operation Alcatraz was moved to Bucaramanga, where the elite police corps conducted 40 raids in various neighborhoods resulting in 20 arrests. The raids took place in Cabecera del Llano, Cafe Madrid, and Altos del Canaveral neighborhoods.

According to the police report, those arrested were implicated in the murder of Jairo Duran, alias "El Mico," who was murdered by hired assassins at the end of last year in northern Santa Fe de Bogota.

General Luis Humberto Pineda Perez, police commander in Santander Department, reported the arrest of five of the most important men in the organization.

Among those captured are Edgar Sanchez Marin, Miguel Angel Alzate, Federico Alzate Moncada, and Luz Estela Gomez Corzo, who were transferred to Santa Fe de Bogota and placed in custody of the Prosecutor's Office.

The other individuals arrested, police sources explained, were apparently bodyguards of the aforementioned detainees.

According to Dijin officers who participated in the operation, the alleged criminals were going to send cocaine shipments worth millions abroad.

The investigations allowed authorities to determine that the organization transported the drugs from Villavicencio to Bucaramanga in cargo trucks.

The drugs were packed inside containers that were sent to Barranquilla, where cartel members took steps to sell them on U.S. and European markets.

Police sources indicated that given the police pressure on drug cartels in Santa Fe de Bogota, Medellin, and Cali, those criminal organizations have moved to Bucaramanga.

During the operations, authorities seized seven revolvers, four pistols, one Ingram submachine gun, six shotguns, six clips, one bullet proof vest, two grenades, two sticks of dynamite, 779 cartridges of various calibers, a Chevrolet vehicle, one motorcycle, two microcomputers, seven communication radios, two vehicle license plates, and a couple handcuffs.

Documents that will allow authorities to break the money laundering network operating out of the capital of Santander Department were also seized.

Five hundred men supported by Santa Fe de Bogota Dijin units and officials of the Prosecutor's Office took part in these operations.

Authorities investigated several banks on 29 January to trace the large transactions obtained from drug shipments abroad.

Assassin Leader Arrested in Antioquia Department

PA0502225293 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1630 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] On 5 February, Antioquia Department authorities confirmed that a citizen's report led to the arrest on 4 February of Leonardo de Jesus Rivera Rincon, chief of a group of assassins hired by the Medellin Cartel in the eastern part of the city. The government was offering 100 million pesos for his capture.

Official sources reported that Rivera, alias Leo, was the second man in the Zarco Band. Rivera received direct orders from Carlos Alzate Urquijo, alias Arete, and specialized in kidnappings and bill collection for the Medellin Cartel.

Police Destroy Coca Laboratory in Perija

PA0602190293 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1700 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Text] The narcotics police located and destroyed a coca processing laboratory in a mountainous area in Perija, Cesar Department, arresting several peasants who protected the site.

The police found 500 kg of cocaine base and chemicals used in coca leaf processing. The police reported finding other coca plots, the sizes of which they were unable to determine because of the guerrilla presence.

Drug Kingpin Reportedly Received New Identity

PA0502143793 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 2300 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Report by Diego Hernan Canal]

[Text] Colombian drug trafficker Carlos Ledher Rivas no longer exists for the world. His name and history have disappeared in the United States. The Federal Prison Office has confirmed this information to the "24 Hours" newscast. Ledher Rivas, who was extradited to the United States on 5 February 1987, resorted to the witness protection system and now has another name. No one knows his whereabouts. We were able to establish, however, that he is still in jail but not at the Marion penitentiary.

The identity change was one of the benefits Ledher received for testifying against General Manuel Antonio Noriega. He also managed to get his family out of Colombia. It is rumored that his wife and daughter

traveled to the United States. There are reports, however, that they filled out forms to go to Germany. Prior to the agreement with U.S. justice, none of Ledher's relatives could enter the United States.

The drug trafficker made other requests before testifying against the former Panamanian strongman. Ledher asked for a revision of his trial, to be sent to Germany, and for the suspension of his life sentence. We do not know if he received any of those benefits.

Carlos Ledher had been sentenced to life in prison plus 120 years. Now the only evidence of Ledher's existence are videos and recorded statements of him defending drug trafficking.

[Begin recording] [Ledher] Cocaine is the atomic bomb of Latin America.

[Unidentified reporter] What does that mean?

[Ledher] It means that with soft drugs—cocaine and marijuana are soft drugs—and the available market, as apparently U.S. citizens need drugs to function...[end recording]

The Colombian Government does not officially know if Ledher received those benefits.

[Begin Prosecutor General Gustavo De Greiff recording] I do not know if the government knows. The Prosecutor General's Office has received no official information on the matter.[end recording]

Justice Minister Andres Gonzalez is currently making inquiries into the matter.

Foreign Companies Drop Investment Plans

PA0802042293 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0130 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Text] Foreign investors are showing fear. A large British company withdrew $200 million from a thermoelectric project in Boyaca citing problems with lack of security. The British company Rolls Royce decided not to build the fourth thermal generator for the Paipa electric plant in Boyaca because they believe there is not enough security.

[Begin Jairo Londono Arango, president of the National Federation of Coal Miners, recording] They were here for 15 days. In October of 1992 they had made the decision to invest in Colombia. However, recently they were awarded a $200 million project, and they sent a letter stating they will not be able to come to Colombia due to the problems with security in our country. [end recording]

Unfortunately, this is not the only such case. Recently, a U.S. company announced that it would not enter into a joint venture with a Colombian company to build a new factory in Antioquia Department.

A similar response was received from Spanish investors who also decided not to come to the country.

[Begin Armando Montenegro, director of the National Department of Planning, recording] The unsafe atmosphere scares away agricultural investors. So many kidnappings and extortions are some of the reasons for our agriculture's underdevelopment. Furthermore, foreigners are not willing to come to a country that has so much violence and crime. [end recording]

In spite of such a negative image, the government hopes the rest of the agreed upon international investments and loans for this year will not be affected because of terrorism, which, according to them, cannot overshadow our sound economic policy and the solid support from international financial circles.

Ecuador

Congress Acquits Energy Minister Barreiro

PA0502152493 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1100 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] There was an insufficient number of votes in the National Congress to condemn ousted Energy Minister Andres Barreiro. The vote was as follows: 35 deputies voted against Barreiro, 37 voted in his favor, four were absent, and one abstained.

The congressional factions were split as follows: the Social Christian Party, Democratic Left [ID], Democratic People's Party, Socialist Party, ID dissidents, three members of the Popular Democracy Party, and one liberal condemned the minister. The Independent Republican Party, independent conservatives, and Ecuadoran Roldosist Party voted in favor of Barreiro's acquittal.

Even though the president of the Republic fired the minister, the National Congress has acquitted him.

Ruling Party Deputies Oppose Dismissal

PA0502154993 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1100 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] The Republican Unity Party [PUR] congressional faction has criticized the president's decision to dismiss Minister Andres Barreiro. Faction Leader Napoleon Icaza warns that this situation may threaten future relations with Brazil.

[Begin Icaza recording] We believe the president had confidence in the men he appointed, and it is unfortunate that the confidence is already eroding. The PUR feels the time has come for each minister to examine his performance at his ministry and to start thinking that the cabinet is in need of some fresh air. [end recording]

The ruling party deputies are even considering the possibility of withdrawing from the government and acting on their own. The PUR opposes the separation of Energy Minister Andres Barreiro.

General Reports Dissolution of Judicial Police

PA0502160193 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1100 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] National Police Commander General Jaime Teran has announced the dissolution of the Judicial Police created by the previous administration. Teran indicated that the necessary infrastructure to get such a specialized police force going does not exist; there are no laboratories or offices.

Teran announced that the members of the defunct Judicial Police will join the National Police force as policemen.

Paraguay

Supreme Court President Says Resignation Suggested

PY0502184493 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 4 Feb 93 p 2

[Excerpt] Supreme Court President Jose Alberto Correa confirmed on 3 February that members of the executive branch have insinuated and suggested that he should resign. He refused, however, to reveal their names, adding that members of the Supreme Court can only be removed from their positions through impeachment.

In a news conference Correa said: "I have spoken to some executive branch members." Correa pointed out that during these talks, executive branch representatives hinted and suggested that he should resign.

Correa added: "I had the impression that this was what they were hinting at, but (the resignation) has not been formally proposed." He said he could not reveal the identity of the government representatives.

Commenting that Supreme Court members can only be removed from their positions through impeachment, as established in the Constitution, Correa emphasized: "Many executive members are lawyers who know the Constitution perfectly well and know that we can only be removed through impeachment." Correa said that the five members of the Supreme court have agreed on a common position if the executive branch officially requests that they leave.

He added that he cannot reveal the decision they have made. Judicial branch sources have reported, however, that the Supreme Court members are willing to reject and resist any executive branch official attempt to remove them without any reason or justification. [passage omitted]

Colorado Party Commemorates 3 February Coup

PY0502171693 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 4 Feb 93 p 10

[Excerpts] With the participation of armored vehicles, Air Force planes, and a Cavalry unit, the Colorado Party Executive Board last night staged a rally called the "Freedom March." This civic and military march was marked by a massive participation of the public which the organizers estimate at 170,000 people who paraded in front of the official platform to commemorate the fourth anniversary of the downfall of the dictatorship of Alfredo Stroessner. The rally was attended by President Andres Rodriguez, Armed Forces chiefs, and ministers. The military justified the presence of uniformed men and war materiel at the Colorado march, which ended at 0030 with a cavalry unit parade.

The presence of military tanks and airplanes as well as Armed Forces members gave a special setting to the civic and military march organized by the Colorado Party Executive Board to commemorate the beginning of the political transition which was made possible through the overthrow of Stroessner on 3 February 1989.

The people who participated in the rally, which marched along in disorganized groups, carried red Colorado flags giving a colorful touch to the event. Colorado sympathizers spontaneously gave speeches and sang folklore party themes. There was also a fireworks display.

Colorado Party President Blas N. Riquelme delivered a speech before the march started in front of the Colorado Party headquarters on 25 de Mayo Street. A special platform was set outside the Colorado Party headquarters for the main party, military and civilian leaders who participated in the 3 February 1989 coup, as well as other special guests.

Although the party leaders sent invitations to all the opposition parties and movements, their presence was not observed. The opposition was nonetheless present at a rally organized by human rights organizations called "State Terrorism Never Again" which took place in the Plaza Uruguaya. The Febrerista Revolutionary Party nonetheless sent a note to the Colorados thanking them for the invitation. [passage omitted]

Juan Ramon Chavez, the old Colorado caudillo, was also the object of appreciation by many of the Colorados present. Chavez occupied a place of honor near President Rodriguez and Blas N. Riquelme.

President Rodriguez said he trusts the Colorados will attain party unity. "The Colorado Party will reach agreement. I am sure we will achieve reconciliation, and with unity the party will triumph in the next general elections," he said. Army Commander General Pedro Concepcion Ocampos and First Army Division Commander General Lino Cesar Oviedo justified the military presence, saying the march was organized by the party in power in honor of those who carried out the 3 February military uprising. [passage omitted]

Opposition Leaders Join in Human Rights March

PY0602012993 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 4 Feb 93 p 4

[Excerpt] Some 2,000 people yesterday joined in the "March for Life" sponsored by the Human Rights Commission, with a slogan of "Never again state terrorism." The march began at Plaza Uruguaya, and ended with a meeting in front of the National Memorial in Asuncion.

Singing chants and slogans, the demonstrators marched peacefully along Mariscal Estigarribia and Palma Streets. They carried torches and many posters with the names of persons reported missing during the Stroessner dictatorship.

Several opposition leaders joined the march and meeting. Among them were PLRA [Authentic Radical Liberal Party] presidential candidate Domingo Laino, Christian Democratic Party leader Luis Alfonso Resck, 26 May Movement leader Ricardo Canese, PLRA leader Felix Bogado Gondra, Rodrigo Campos Cerevera, and others. Some former political prisoners, such as Captain Napoleon Ortigoza, and relatives of missing persons also joined in the march. [passage omitted]

Rodriguez Talks to Reporters, Dismisses Rumors

PY0502213593 Asuncion Cerro Cora Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 1512 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] A few minutes ago, shortly before leaving Government Palace, President Andres Rodriguez talked to reporters to comment on rumors which are disquieting for the nation, such as those alleging the arrest of a number of captains for not participating in the Freedom March, and on the controversy provoked by the participation of servicemen in the march, which was sponsored by the Colorado Party.

[Begin recording] [Rodriguez] The parade recently staged outside the Colorado Party headquarters was sponsored exclusively by this party, which invited the military forces to join the parade as a tribute to them on the fourth anniversary of the day on which they brought freedom and democracy to the Paraguayan people.

Honestly, I have been waiting for four years for this to happen. Had the parade been sponsored by all the political parties, it would have been so encouraging for all of us. I believe all political parties should have paid tribute to all those who fell for such a beautiful, just cause, as is that of bringing freedom and democracy to the Paraguayan people. We could not have forced them to do so, but I have been waiting for the past four years for all parties, and for the people themselves, to undertake such an initiative. In reality the 3 February parade was not a partisan event; it was not a partisan rally. It was nothing but an act of recognition and a tribute to the fourth anniversary of that liberating action which really freed the Paraguayan people from a dictatorship and its oppression.

I have noticed that many people were annoyed by the fact that a small military group participated in the rally staged outside the Colorado headquarters. Where else should they have gone? They were there in response to an invitation, they were there as the honored guests. In my opinion, an honored guest must participate in an activity organized for him. To fail to do so would mean being rude to those who extended the invitation. The invitation was indeed extended by the chairman and by the executive board of the Colorado Party. I would have preferred that all political parties, not only the Colorado Party, had taken this initiative. After all, the other political parties were benefited by the military action to the same or to an even higher degree than the Colorado Party, which was already the ruling party. It would have been so nice for those parties and the people who have begun to enjoy freedom and democracy since then to pay tribute to those who fell on that occasion. Those of us who are alive do not need such a tribute. I believe the sacrifice of those who made it possible for the Paraguayan people to have freedom and democracy should at least be recognized. I wanted to make this statement to avoid confusion, because many people are saying that the Armed Forces participated in politics, and so forth. This is not true. This was not a partisan event. It was nothing but a tribute paid to the Armed Forces.

[Unidentified Reporter] Mr. President, would you please clarify a report that some captains are now under arrest because they refused to participate in the above parade? Is this true?

[Rodriguez] Look, that is big lie. A number of people have really set up a big industry in disseminating false rumors. I do not know what purpose these rumors might serve, as they will not bring benefit to anyone. I am sure that no officer will disobey orders from his superiors. I am sure that will not happen today. Those are false rumors. [end recording]

President Rodriguez also answered questions about disquieting rumors about the Colorado Party situation, about Supreme Court justices being asked to resign, and about the dissolution of Congress.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Deputy Frutos yesterday charged that the possibility of dissolving Congress is being considered. What is your answer to that?

[Rodriguez] Well, that is in line with what I just said about an industry that is disseminating false rumors. I do not know what is behind these rumors, which I consider to be unusual. No one is thinking about dissolving Congress; no one is thinking about asking anyone to resign. I have time and again said I would like the chief justice, or any of the justices of the Supreme Court, to identify the person who asked them to resign. If I wanted to ask them to do that, I would not use any intermediary. They may rest fully assured of that. Besides, they are good friends of mine. I summoned them to my office to offer them—both the chief juctice and the other justices—their positions.

Knowing full well that the Constitution does not empower me to ask them to resign, why should I do it?

[Reporter] General, Senator Carlos Romero Pereira yesterday said that a pro-Rodriguez faction [Rodriguismo] is seeking to dissolve Congress as a dilatory tactic to force the postponement of the 9 May election.

[Rodriguez] Absolutely not. I am not aware of the existence of a pro-Rodriguez faction. No political party has been created, nor is there any plan to create one. I may have friends, like you. I do not think that just because you are my friends you should be considered pro-Rodriguez. Absolutely not.

[Reporter] Dr. Dionisio Gonzalez Torres [former health minister] was also here today, Mr. President. Is he making any effort to find a solution to the Colorado Party crisis?

[Rodriguez] I have not yet met with him. I believe he is meeting with other friends, perhaps seeking a formula to see if an agreement can be achieved. [end recording]

President Rodriguez also commented on the resignation of Dorino Da Re as president of Paraguayan Airlines [LAP]. He said the government is looking for a replacement.

[Begin recording] [Rodriguez] Yes. I understand he has tendered his irrevocable resignation, although I have not yet seen it. He undoubtedly worked hard. We had sincerely hoped that with his dedication and efforts he would meet the expected goals, but for some reason he was unable to do so. Thus, he understood that and tendered his resignation.

[Reporter] Who will be the new LAP president?

[Rodriguez] We are working hard to find someone who will be capable of filling the vacant position left by Mr. Da Re, who was an excellent executive and worked hard to help LAP overcome its problems. [end recording]

Presidential Hopefuls Plan Talks With Military

PY0502215293 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 4 Feb 93 p 8

[Text] Although President Andres Rodriguez, Armed Forces commander in chief, has conditioned his participation in the political-military dialogue, the presidential hopefuls decided on 3 February to continue taking the necessary steps for a new political-military forces dialogue, as proposed by the Authentic Radical Liberal Party [PLRA]. Domingo Laino will meet Interior Minister Hugo Estigarribia at 0900 on 5 February to establish the agenda for this possible dialogue.

The topics to be discussed with President Rodriguez, which are contained in a preliminary document signed beforehand by the presidential candidates, can be modified as a result of Laino's meeting with the interior minister.

PLRA presidential candidate Laino was chosen to meet the interior minister as a representative of the presidential hopefuls. In view of the Armed Forces' participation in the recent Colorado Party march, which openly violated the Constitution, the hopefuls agreed that steps for the dialogue with the military must be immediately taken.

The presidential candidates criticized the military's decision to participate in the march, and pointed out that this is the sort of situation politicians are struggling to eradicate. They added that General Rodriguez authorizes the military to interfere in the parties' political affairs.

Engineer Ricardo Canese, presidential candidate for the 26 May Movement, said the executive branch's decision to accept the dialogue is a good way to rectify its previous actions. He added: "Gen. Rodriguez has often made mistakes but he has important virtues, such as when he explicitly expressed his wish to participate in the dialogue."

Laino said this decision to accept the dialogue is very positive. He added: "It benefits the transition process very much, and is one more step toward the definitive establishment of a state of rights in our country."

The meeting, held at the Gran Hotel of Paraguay on 3 February, was attended by Luis alfonso Resk, of the Christian Democratic Party; Abraham Zapag, of the National Alliance; Ricardo Canese, of the 26 May Movement; Leandro Prieto Yegros, an independent Colorado Party candidate; and Juan Arrom, of the Broad National Participation Movement [Movimiento Amplio Te Participacion Nacional].

The first topic, among others, the hopefuls want to discuss with the military, which is contained in the preliminary agenda handed to the Interior Ministry on 3 February, establishes that the Armed Forces must commit themselves to respecting the Constitution and the laws currently in force in the country, in particular the Electoral Code, as well as to respect the democratic institutions created by these laws.

Another topic calls for respect for and compliance with the people's will as expressed through the ballot boxes, and respect for and compliance with the political and electoral calendar established in the Constitution, the Electoral Code, and other similar legal instruments. Another topic calls for guarantees that power will be handed over in a normal fashion to the candidate who legitimately wins the upcoming general elections.

Also, the political forces clearly and decisively promise the Paraguayan people and the international community to prevent any external interference in the electoral process legally agreed upon.

EN Threatens Boycott of Presidential Elections

PY0602021393 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 4 Feb 93 p 7

[Article by Hector Guerin]

[Text] Ciudad del Este—Dr. Guillermo Caballero Vargas has threatened that National Encounter [EN] will withdraw from the political process if the Colorado Party does not respect the date the Constitution has set for the national elections. He added that any postponement "will be a coup d'etat." The independent presidential candidate practically ruled out any type of alliance with the PLRA [Authentic Radical Liberal Party], because that party "changed its orientation, and at the Coronel Oviedo meeting it disqualified National Encounter as a valid political interlocutor."

Concerning the position of some Colorado leaders who have downplayed the constitutional rules establishing the dates for holding presidential elections, Caballero Vargas confirmed that "there are actually some trends toward postponing the elections."

The EN presidential candidate, who along with other EN leaders attended the celebration of the anniversary of the Alto Parana Department capital, emphasized that "I am absolutely sure that the elections will be held on the dates established by the Constitution. There is no chance whatsoever for a postponement, because this would in fact amount to a coup d'etat." He explained that postponing the elections "would be a juridical coup equivalent to a coup d'etat, because the Constitution will be violated, and this is very serious for a country that wants democracy. It would be very serious to start out by violating constitutional rules, despite the fact that many people imagine they are merely formal. This, however, will open broad possibilities for future violations of the Constitution to please the bosses who are on duty."

"In conclusion, we have to understand that this is a serious democracy and that it has credibility, and the only way to make it serious and credible is to scrupulously respect the Constitution and the laws," Caballero said.

"We Will Walk Out of the Process"

Asked about what would happen if the Colorado Party sticks to its position of postponing the presidential elections, Caballero Vargas emphatically replied: "We are certain. If the Constitution is not respected, we will walk out of the process. We will not endorse any type of violation of the Constitution. Consequently, we would not be available for helping to improve this process toward democratization that we are living through in our country."

Concerning an alliance between the EN and the PLRA, Caballero Vargas explained that "15 days ago Dr. Benitez Florentin spoke about the possibility of talking about this matter in the middle of February. We welcomed this predisposition on the part of the PLRA president."

Caballero Vargas said that the situation has apparently changed, "because the speeches that were delivered in Coronel Oviedo make us believe that there has been a change of orientation, because they disqualified the National Encounter as a valid interlocutor. I believe they even called upon other sectors. The accord to which they (the PLRA) were referring should be with other forces, and not with National Encounter."

"Scrupulously Respect Constitutional Rules"

The EN candidate reiterated that he will not participate in the civilian-military dialogue sponsored by the PLRA because "there has been enough talk during the four years of the transition. We have drawn up a national Constitution, which incidentally was the first democratic Constitution designed with full enforcement of public liberties. We believe this Constitution reflects a civilian-military pact, and the country's socio-political pact. Consequently, we believe that the appropriate thing to do now is to scrupulously respect constitutional rules."

"I trust that if we Paraguayans understand that respect for the Constitution is the best insurance policy we have for successfully concluding the transition toward democracy, we will be preserved from any contingency or any danger that we may have in confronting the future. Now, if the PLRA wants to engage in a dialogue with the president, I wish them success," Caballero Vargas concluded.

Group Formed To Mediate Colorado Party Crisis

PY0602165293 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 6 Feb 93 p 4

[Text] A delegation comprised of [Foreign Minister] Alexis Frutos Vaesken, [former Education Minister] Dionisio Gonzalez Torres, [Secretary General of the Presidency] Miguel Angel Gonzalez Casabianca, and [Justice Minister] Oscar Paciello was organized yesterday at the initiative of President Andres Rodriguez to hold talks with leaders of the two opposing factions within the Colorado Party in an effort to find a solution to the conflict and achieve the registration of its candidates for the 9 May elections.

According to Frutos Vaesken, President Rodriguez entrusted them with the mission of meeting with leaders of the Argana-Ybanez and Wasmosy-Seifart movements without an established plan but with the idea that solutions will emerge during the talks.

He explained further that because most presidential candidates will be in the interior of the country this weekend, their mediation task will not being until 8 February.

He added that the talks' only objective was to find a consensus candidate who will please everyone. When asked about the manner in which this mediation will be carried out, he said they will first hold independent meetings with each of the movement leaders and then, if possible, a joint meeting.

"What we want is a political solution to the conflict because there are many possibilities that, whatever the party Electoral Court's decision, one of the movements will appeal to the regular court, and there is no more time for that," Frutos Vaesken said.

Concerning the election dates, he said a postponement of the registration date is possible, given the fact that there is good disposition among the other political parties, but there was no mention of changing the date for the general elections.

He said that one of the probable solutions was to call for new elections because if a consensus candidate is achieved, he must be ratified by the vote of party members to comply with the electoral rules.

Argana-Ybanez Movement Supports 'Mediation'

PY0602222293 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 6 Feb 93 p 6

[Text] Diogenes Martinez, legal representative of the Argana-Ybanez '93 Movement, said this morning that his movement as an institution supports mediation by President Andres Rodriguez in seeking a solution to the Colorado Party crisis.

He added: "Our movement looks well upon our fellow party member Andres Rodriguez' initiative of appointing a few of his aides to meet the former Colorado Party presidential candidates and the Colorado Party candidate for the 9 May elections, Dr. Argana, to seek a solution to the Colorado Party internal crisis."

He asserted: "We will do our best, will makes sacrifices, and will show generosity so that through these people the Colorado Party can find a solution to its internal crisis. The Argana-Ybanez '93 Movement will maintain the best predisposition, and will open its agenda and its arms to any possible dialogue."

Regarding Senator Carlos Romero Pereira's comments that he did not trust this mediation because a coup d'etat is being plotted, Martinez said this was Romero Pereira's personal opinion. "I am conveying to you the movement's position regarding Rodriguez' decision to appoint a negotiating committee to seek a solution to the party crisis," he emphasized.

State of Exception

Diogenes Martinez yesterday reported that people who do not belong to his movement, particularly those who support the Wasmosy movement, could infiltrate the demonstration scheduled for 11 February, creating riots and incidents that could result in a situation that might somehow force the executive branch to declare a state of exception. Despite this risk, it has been confirmed that the demonstration will be staged.

Martinez also pointed out: "If the special convention is held, we will participate in it and will advise the 380 conventioneers to altruistically choose the best jurists to make up the Independent Electoral Court."

Rodriguez Discusses Government Achievements

PY0802121993 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 7 Feb 93 p 12

[Interview with President Andres Rodriguez by a group of reporters led by HOY Publisher Vicente Sarubbi Zaldivar "on the fourth anniversary of his coming to power," at Government House: date not given]

[Text] [HOY] Now that you are entering the final stage of your administration, how would you like history to remember you?

[Rodriguez] As the president who brought freedom and democracy to Paraguay, the president who reintroduced civilized treatment for its citizens and respect for dissent, as the first president in 60 years to hand over power peacefully to a successor elected by the people in a clear, clean, and democratic election.

[HOY] What achievement are you most proud of?

[Rodriguez] I am most proud of having brought freedom, social justice, and equal opportunity to all my fellow citizens.

[HOY] What about freedom of the press?

[Rodriguez] Thank God, absolute freedom of the press has become so common that it is already taken for granted. This is clear proof that we are talking about facts when we say that we are restoring democracy.

[HOY] Could the past regime [of deposed dictator Alfredo Stroessner] be reinstated through democratic means?

[Rodriguez] I want to believe that the people, my people, who suffered so much under that senseless and brutal repression, do not want to return to that past. The memories of abuses are too recent. Publication on the investigations into torture and persecution must serve to remind us of that past.

[HOY] What do the representatives of the Armed Forces mean when they say that they do not want to return to the past?

[Rodriguez] They mean just that. Times change. History evolves and the mistakes of the past must not be repeated through the ballot process. The Armed Forces are part of the people. They know very well that we all lose during a dictatorship.

[HOY] Do you think the Armed Forces have recovered their image?

[Rodriguez] Of course. Those who applauded us after 3 February 1989 [date of the coup that ousted Stroessner] and who thanked us for bringing democracy and starting a transition process began to see those in uniform again

as nothing but specialized professionals, individuals without special privileges. We must not forget that it was the blood of the Paraguayan soldier that pulled us out of the darkness of the dictatorship.

[HOY] We imagine you suffered many frustrations during your government.

[Rodriguez] Of course there were some frustrations. But they should not prevent us from continuing the democratic transition process. Democracy makes people think about their rights, but very few think about their obligations. People want immediate solutions to all their problems without considering the means available for solving them.

[HOY] What about some of your successes?

[Rodriguez] There are many. I am satisfied because we were able to pay the teachers the minimum salary and long before the promised date. I am also satisfied that we were able to pay, for the first time, the December bonus to all public workers in Paraguay. We must also stress the achievements in our fight against corruption, the fight against inflation, the resolution of the foreign debt problem, and the international recognition that our country now enjoys.

We must not forget other important events such as the acceptance and ratification of the San Jose de Costa Rica pact and the subsequent recognition—through a decree that I signed nearly a month ago—of the jurisdiction of the Inter-American Human Rights Court. We should not forget the OAS centennial celebrations and the OAS 20th General Assembly that was held in Asuncion.

[HOY] What can you tell us about the homeless?

[Rodriguez] The thousands of homeless Paraguayan families are an inheritance from the past government. We are trying to solve the situation by giving homes to as many people as possible. We built and distributed around 16,000 houses among the poorest families as of December last year. We will continue our program of inaugurating new housing units throughout the country every week as of now.

[HOY] Why has your government been unable to privatize any state owned companies so far?

[Rodriguez] It was not for lack of decision by the executive branch. A review of the messages and privatization bills the executive sent to Congress will confirm this.

[HOY] What unfulfilled project would you like the next government to complete?

[Rodriguez] We had to solve the foreign debt problem and fight inflation. With that we took care of the present generation's well-being because inflation always punishes the poorest. We also helped future generations because they will not have to pay the debt of their parents. The next government will have the right conditions to continue to attract investments, to industrialize the country, and to continue to create jobs. It hurts me to see that many Paraguayans want to work but cannot find a job.

[HOY] What are you plans for after August?

[Rodriguez] Well...[pauses] I will think about that later.

General Oviedo Pledges Loyalty to Rodriguez

PY0502220793 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 4 Feb 93 p 6

[Text] In a speech delivered at the Artillery Unit of the 1st Cavalry Division, General Lino Oviedo, the 1st Army Commander, yesterday reiterated to President Andres Rodriguez his "absolute loyalty." Oviedo also criticized "political analysts and merchants of politics."

Gen. Oviedo also harshly criticized the previous regime, which he referred to as the "infamous dictatorship," saying that Stroessner was a "despot who fell from his pedestal of heavy-handedness and bloody omnipotence" and "a tyrant who never respected the right to life of thousands of our fellow countrymen."

"And to aspiring political analysts and merchants of politics we say, with all the power of our spirit as soldiers, that their diatribes and repugnant expressions will never tarnish the sacred olive green and the honor of the men who are members of the glorious Armed Forces," Gen. Oviedo said, in part of his speech.

Addressing General Rodriguez, Gen. Oviedo said: "Your subordinates wish to convey to you our absolute loyalty, to you and to the sacred principles of our glorious Armed Forces, which will always be the guardians of the tranquillity of our people and the staunch defenders of our sovereignty."

Peru

'Immediate Presidential Reelection' Proposed

PA0502174893 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1539 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] Lima, 5 Feb (EFE)—The ruling alliance in Peru, the Change 90/New Majority Movement Coalition, is preparing for the reelection of President Alberto Fujimori and to that end will present a bill to the Democratic Constituent Congress (CCD).

Martha Chavez, spokeswoman for the ruling majority at the CCD, announced that the coalition will present a bill at the assembly calling for an immediate presidential reelection.

The current Constitution, which dates back to 1979, does not allow immediate reelection and establishes that a period of five years or, in other words, a presidential term must elapse before a president can again run for the presidency.

The congresswoman said: "I see nothing wrong with supporting a proposal of this nature because I believe President Fujimori should be reelected for the country's benefit."

Chavez also pointed out that there is no reason for reelection to be limited to one term and that there is a possibility that the coalition's bill will not place any limit on the number of times a president can be reelected.

The congresswoman pointed out, however, that it will all depend on Fujimori and the people, who must decide through a referendum whether or not they agree with reelection.

Martha Chavez said the reelection issue need not necessarily be subjected to a plebiscite because it can be included as a precept in the new constitution that is currently being debated by the CCD's Constitution Commission.

One of the many reasons for this is that once the new constitution is edited it will be subjected in its entirety to a referendum. The people will either accept or reject it and point out the things that should be changed. The Constitution Commission has just included the Peruvian people's right to referendum in the new constitutional text.

Chavez pointed out the limitations of the right to popular consultation, which, she said, cannot be used for issues such as taxes or human rights due to doctrinary reasons.

Since consultation with the voters will be governed by specific laws, these laws will decide what issues can be set forth for popular consultation. For example, regarding the recall of authorities, a plebiscite cannot include either the president or the cabinet ministers, Chavez said.

Alberto Fujimori said on 31 January on a television program that he is not interested in being reelected in the presidential and parliamentary elections of 1995 when his presidential term expires.

Fujimori, who took office in July 1990, said that his "alleged obstinacy" regarding reelection "is a matter that keeps others up at night, but not me. I do not have such intentions. I will leave a country that is peaceful and on the right track. I will be satisfied with that."

The president also said that reelection as well as the death penalty for terrorists, which would require a change in the current Constitution, are issues that should be resolved through popular consultations.

A future popular consultation on the presidential reelection issue may favor Fujimori, who according to the latest polls maintains a 60 percent approval rating.

The political opposition in the CCD has also announced that it is against immediate presidential reelection and requested that the position stated in the current Constitution be respected.

Congresswoman Lourdes Flores, secretary general of the conservative Popular Christian Party, opposed the approval of the right to referendum and said that "it can be dangerous if it is not adequately regulated."

She pointed out that she is not totally opposed to the right to referendum, but it should only be applied in very specific cases. She warned that to replace a representative democracy with a plebiscitary democracy "could be quite dangerous."

Fujimori on Reelection, Guzman's Health

PA0602153493 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Text] President Alberto Fujimori has declined comment on the possibility of calling for a referendum on the death penalty and the presidential reelection. He said the Democratic Constituent Congress [CCD] and the people must first speak on the matter. Referring to the health of Shining Path Leader Abimael Guzman, Fujimori denied rumors that Guzman is near death. Fujimori added that Guzman is very depressed by his isolation and the life sentence he is serving. During a visit to southern cities, Fujimori also commented on the value of the dollar and negotiations with the IMF.

[Begin recording] [Fujimori in progress] .... to see the video taken three days ago. I saw Abimael in good health. He is, of course, depressed because he is suffering the rigors of prison life.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Fujimori] Yes, we know. We are working on the final details. The details are to provide greater security, with a seriousness that the case deserves. He will be jailed in Lima Department.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Reporter] The CCD is handling important topics, such as bills on a referendum and the possibility of reelection. These are very controversial topics. How do you feel about them?

[Fujimori] [Words indistinct] the stance the CCD and, chiefly, the public may take. The people are sovereign; they are the ones that make the decision, not a judge and jury.

[Reporter] As for the [words indistinct], the new constitution being drafted by the CCD is including the concept of a referendum. That means the participation by the people in major decisions. The death sentence is a fundamental topic in that respect. Will this issue be debated? When?

[Fujimori] I [words indistinct] positive, the path is clear. This agreement was reached by the constitution committee. It must be approved by the full assembly. Once approved, important topics can be submitted to the (?decision) of the people.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Fujimori] We want better parity to promote exports. The Central Reserve Bank is now getting involved in the exchange market, hence the one cent increase [word indistinct].

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Fujimori] No, we are leaving that up to the free market forces of supply and demand. But in no way do we want it to drop below 1.70, at least not in early February. [end recording]

Reserve Fund Willing To Provide $400 Million

PA0502155493 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] The Latin American Reserve Fund [FLAR] will support Peru with more than $400 million, if the Central Reserve Bank requests it, for the creation of the second support group. Reportedly, this second group will be created soon. This statement was given by FLAR President Guillermo Castaneda on the morning of 4 February.

The Fund is an organization which generally supports member countries with credits for their balance of payments, but it can also channel aid for Peru's return to the international financial system.

The possibility was mentioned after the FLAR president made a protocol visit to the president of the Democratic Constituent Congress. Castaneda made statements to the media and said his organization is willing to help.

[Begin recording] [Castaneda] We can grant Peru a credit of slightly more than $400 million. You may recall we granted a credit of $403 million in 1991. We can grant a similar amount, or more than that, because the countries' capital resources in the organization have increased. We are talking about approximately $410 million or $415 million.

[Reporter] Is it necessary for Japan and the United States to lead the support group for Peru?

[Castaneda] I think so, but above all, it is necessary to provide continuity to the process because these countries have been directly involved with previous negotiations. I think this facilitates everything. [end recording]

IDB Delegate on Loan for Infrastructure

PA0702041993 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Text] The Inter-American Development Bank [IDB] will loan a total of $332 million to Peru, IDB Delegate Javier Gala Palacios announced. He pointed out that $100 million will be used to upgrade the national infrastructure. This is consistent with the government's decision to declare 1993 the year of education modernization.

[Begin recording] [Gala] Education is the most important aspect in the country for the next few years. Together with the World Bank, we will try to make contributions to the educational reform. We think this is the most important step toward ensuring that Peru will overcome its underdevelopment. I am talking about ways to educate our children, about making an effort to rescue several generations that we have lost already. This is what I consider most important.

[Unidentified correspondent] As for the IDB contribution to the education sector, how much aid could Peru receive?

[Gala] This is still in the early stages, but we are certain this will require a lot of money. It costs a lot of money to educate children; it costs a lot of money to produce good citizens, politicians, business managers, and entrepreneurs. This does not come cheaply. This is why developed countries have better education. The tentative figure we came up with to start—and this will probably not be the final amount—is $100 million. [end recording]

Court Rejects Election Annulment Request

PA0502160093 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] The El Callao Provincial Court has rejected the request submitted by the Peruvian American Popular Revolutionary Alliance [APRA] to annul elections in Carmen de la Legua District. This decision was made because null votes do not add up to two-thirds of the votes, as specified by law.

The El Callao Provincial Court is working around the clock to deliver the official results of the municipal elections early next week. We were told on 4 February that some of the results might be ready on 5 February.

Problems arose throughout the districts when it was time to mark the ballots, mainly because the voting card was poorly manufactured by the National Electoral Board.

[Begin Ana Maria Delgado recording] El Callao Electoral Board has been inefficient and ineffective. Slate No. 27 has candidates in every district, and it also has candidates at the provincial level. The same goes for all the other candidates. The board failed to summon us or to heed our words when a community movement submitted a writ challenging the results. [end recording]

Referring to these problems, El Callao Electoral Board President Antonio Chavez said all cases are handled promptly and it is not necessary to annul the elections, because the law stipulates this can only be done when two-thirds of the votes are annulled. This is not the case in Carmen de la Legua District, where the court has rejected the APRA request to annul the elections.

[Begin recording] [Chavez] Various independent groups or their candidates have submitted requests to annul the elections in Carmen de la Legua District. A ruling has been issued, and they will be notified. They can then exercise all their rights.

[Reporter] What is the ruling?

[Chavez] The ruling is to reject the request for annulment. [end recording]

Subversives Kill 16 Policemen in Piura Raid

PA0602163693 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Text] Sixteen people were killed as the result of a Shining Path raid in the Piura Mountains.

On the morning of 3 February and early on 4 February, policemen were killed in an attack perpetrated by approximately 60 terrorists in Pampa Alta, Huarmaca District. Three policemen in civilian clothes, accompanied by a municipal worker, were riddled with bullets. Later, other policemen rode to the site of the attack. A land mine exploded under their troop carrying truck. The Army is combing the area for the subversives. The area has been closed off. Four bodies arrived at the 7th Air Wing headquarters in Piura at noon and 12 others arrived at 1415 [1815 GMT].

These are the names of the policemen killed. Roberto Morales Rojas, police captain and head of the bomb squad; Policemen Ricardo Benavides, Benjamin Yarleque and Jorge Farfan; Non-Commissioned Officers Milton Nino, Julio Paico, Juan Chumben, Victor Benavides, Guillermo Hernandez, Marcos Mendiola, Marcos Salazar, and Humberto Aguirre; Mario Palacious and Leornardo Serrano, 3d class technical non-commissioned officers; Radio Operator Jose Espada, and an unidentified non-commissioned officer.

Police Present 5 Shining Path Members to Media

PA0602170593 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Text] At noon on 5 February the National Counterrorism Directorate presented to the media five subversives, members of a Shining Path annihilation unit operating in northern Lima. Among other crimes, these men are responsible for the bloody attacks on Frecuencia 2 Satelite Television and Las Vegas gas station. They were captured on 27 and 29 January while preparing several attacks to hamper or stop the municipal elections. Journalist Alejandro Perez was killed in the attack on Frecuencia 2 Satelite Television and several policemen died in the attack on Las Vegas gas station.

The subversives were identified as Melquiades Mejico, Alejandrina Raimundo, Augusto Flores, Benigno Villanueva, and Cesar Flores. Villanueva, alias Huamani, is a Shining Path central committee member.

In two vehicles they searched, the police confiscated explosives, fuses, arms, ammunition, medicine, surgical instruments, police uniforms, and a large amount of subversive propaganda. Police think the vehicles would have been used as car bombs.

Unpaid Striking Workers Clash With Riot Police

PA0602194993 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Text] Showing irresponsibility bordering on barbarism, a group of Lima municipal workers, on strike to demand the payment of their overdue salaries, perpetrated violent disturbances near the parade grounds, where they were confronted by police.

The workers, who call themselves public servants, destroyed private and public property. They have not been payed since December, when they struck a compromise with Mayor Belmont, who had pledged to solve the problem. Tired and impatient, the workers took to the streets on 6 February, determined to destroy everything in their path.

For over an hour, riot police had to fend off the attack by demonstrators who threw rocks, iron rods, and sticks from every direction, even from building tops. The police, which had to send for reinforcements, managed to take control of the situation at noon, arresting a dozen demonstrators and turning them over to the state security police.

Venezuela

Government Suspends State of Emergency

PA0502035693 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] The Council of Ministers suspended the state of emergency [estado de emergencia] in Sucre and Barinas States. Jesus Ramon Carmona, minister of interior affairs, made the announcement at Miraflores Presidential Palace. According to Minister Carmona, the reasons that motivated the Executive Branch to declare the state of emergency in Sucre and Barinas no longer exist, as the Supreme Electoral Council [CSE] issued a resolution on 26 January on the undecided governorships in those states.

[Begin Carmona recording] This means that institutional normality has been restored in these states and, therefore, all applicable administrative measures will be instituted in accordance with the law as each case requires. [end recording]

Regarding the report filed by Amnesty International that there are human rights violations in Venezuela, Minister Carmona said only that in Venezuela there reigns a complete state of law, and that it is not true human rights are being violated. In addition, on the occasion of the anniversary of the first coup attempt in 1992, Interior Minister Jesus Ramon Carmona affirmed that the situation is absolutely normal throughout the country.

Perez Praises Armed Forces on Coup Anniversary

PA0502010593 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1546 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Excerpts] Caracas, 4 Feb (NOTIMEX)—One year after the failed 4 February 1992 coup attempt, President Carlos Andres Perez praised the Armed Forces for being "guarantors of democracy, as well as the system of liberties."

He insisted "the horizon was cleared" once his government defeated the two 1992 disturbances, as well as "the civilian coup" headed by opposition members and persons who insistently demanded his resignation. In his weekly radio address, Perez stated "the civilian coup that was organized with the resignation of the president of the Republic as its goal, was even more dangerous than the military coup those traitors attempted on that day (4 February)."

From the military point of view, President Perez indicated that the Armed Forces, of which two of its branches (Army and Air Force), were involved in the 1992 uprisings, "are healing their wounds and building a stronger and more solid internal unity."

Perez stated: "I would like to pay unending tribute to our Armed Forces, which are vigorous, disciplined, and have high ethical values. They also have an excellent operational preparedness that is a guarantee for democracy and a liberty based system." [passage omitted]

During his 4 February message Perez failed to mention changes that have been thwarted and his government's achievements one year after the rebellion. He only said remnants of the guerrilla groups that operated in the 1960's participated in the destabilizing actions.

He said the "audacious" neoliberal economic reforms carried out by his government since 1989 have made him the target of "fierce and merciless" attacks and accusations from the opposition.

"I have not sought easy success. I have exerted all my will and efforts to counter the difficult situation prevailing in Venezuela," it was asserted by Perez. He added he will remain firm in his post until February 1994.

Referring to this issue, he said he trusts expectations about the presidential elections in December will prove to the Venezuelans that democracy "does work."

His opinion is shared by military commanders, including Air Force Commander General Eutimio Fuguett, whose corps rebelled in November 1992. He said the electoral atmosphere "refutes" constant rumors about new uprisings.

AD Meeting Discusses Plans for Elections

PA0702133693 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Report by Milagros Rodriguez]

[Text] After meeting at Caraballeda for two days, the Democratic Action [AD] National Directive Committee [CDN] ratified the organization's bylaws, which stipulate the AD presidential candidate has to be elected by the party's rank and file. To further democracy in the party, the CDN established that the secretary general; the regional, area, provincial, municipal, and district secretaries; and administrative positions will also have to be elected by party members.

CDN President Paulina Gamuz reported the conclusions of the AD meeting and said the rank and file will also elect Congressional candidates.

[Begin Gamuz recording] We are not pessimistic, and pessimistic opinions have not been accepted. We have made a very hard, sincere, and self-critical study of the 6 December elections and the December 1989 electoral process. We would be insincere if we said we have not had setbacks and losses. We, however, believe we should make a thorough assessment of AD's situation in the entire country. I do not believe we are a defeated or decimated party, as several people think. The role of the AD in the forthcoming 1993 elections depends entirely on our ability to correct our situation, to propose sincere and truthful actions to the country, and to present an effective candidate to present our proposals. I do believe we will have positive results. [end recording]

Deputy Paulina Gamuz said the CDN did not set a date to choose the presidential candidate. She added the AD electoral commission, which was appointed at the 6 February meeting, will be in charge of establishing election procedures and of setting the starting and ending dates for the presidential election campaign.

The CDN also established a Superior Ethics Court [Tribunal Superior de Etica] that will be headed by Jesus Moreno Guacaran. It further determined that the AD National Executive Commission will appoint a top level commission to start working on the government program to be presented by the next AD presidential candidate.

Furthermore, the CDN agreed to depoliticize the Supreme Electoral Council in the electoral law, to reform the political parties, and to present proposals to the Venezuelan president to modify the government's agriculture and social policies.